A Class Environmental Assessment for Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves

Phase II-b: Draft Class EA

Ontario

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Preface

The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources is preparing a Class Environmental Assessment (Class EA) for Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves. This Draft Class EA has been prepared as a basis for consultation with government agencies, non-government organizations and the general public for their review and comment. Your views are important for the development of an effective Class EA for the many types of projects that take place in our provincial parks and conservation reserves. We encourage you to review this draft and to send us your comments at the address provided below.

This Class EA planning process is comprised of three main phases, as illustrated below. Phase I was completed with the approval of the Terms of Reference in April 2000. Phase II-a consisted of a review of the Annotated Table of Contents report (referred to as an Outline in the Terms of Reference). Public response to that proposal was an important guide for the MNR project team during the preparation of this Draft Class EA document, which comprises Phase II-b of the process for preparing the Class EA. Phase III will involve a government and public review of the Proposed Class EA, conducted by the Ministry of the Environment. This is expected to result in an Approved Class EA for implementation.

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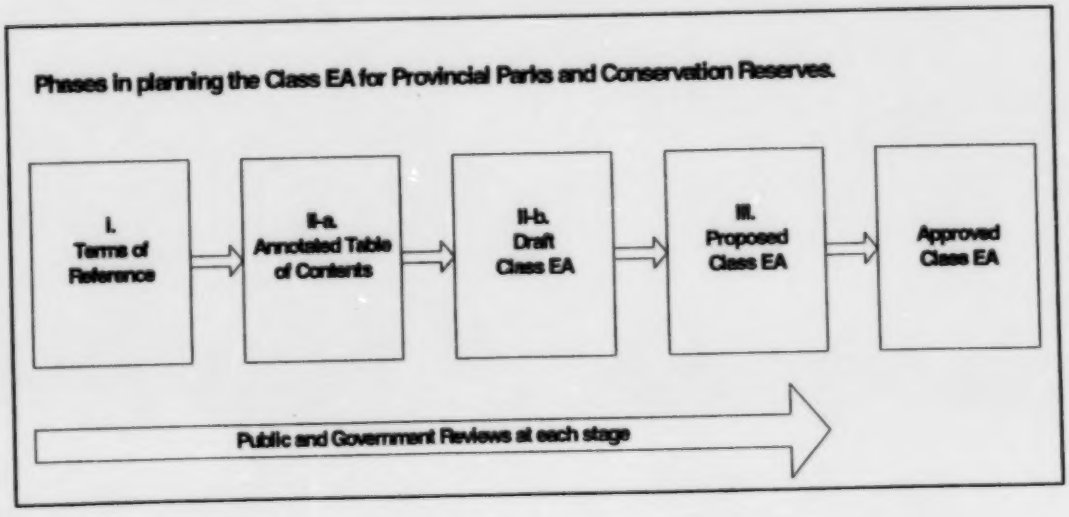
Copies of documents are available from us, or at: http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/MNR/parksea2000 .


Phases in planning the Class EA for Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves.
I. Terms of Reference
II-a. Annotated Table of Contents
II-b. Draft Class EA
III. Proposed Class EA
Approved Class EA
Public and Government Reviews at each stage

1. Introduction

The Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) must comply with the *Environmental Assessment Act* (*EA Act*), which provides for the protection, conservation and wise management of the environment in Ontario. Part II.1 of the *EA Act* sets out requirements for the approval of class environmental assessments (class EA's). A class EA permits a group of related projects and activities ('undertakings') in a defined class to proceed without having to fulfill the full requirements of an individual EA under Part II of the Act, provided they follow the planning and consultation process approved for the class by the Minister of the Environment.

1.1 Purpose of the Class EA

The purpose of this Class EA is:

- To define a class of activities and projects (undertakings) that are conducted in provincial parks and conservation reserves, and that are subject to this Class EA.
- To obtain approval under the *EA Act* for an efficient and effective project evaluation and consultation process for implementation of projects and activities within the class.
- To ensure that projects subject to this Class EA are implemented so that:
  i. Provincial park and conservation reserve values are respected.
  ii. The natural, social, cultural, and economic environment in provincial parks, conservation reserves and other affected areas is protected or enhanced.
  iii. Negative environmental effects are minimized.

In this Class EA, "project" is used to describe undertakings-both projects and activities-that fall within the class.

1.2 Reasons for Using a Class EA

A class environmental assessment is an efficient and effective approach to environmental assessment that is applied to a group of projects that have common attributes, qualities, or characteristics (see Section 1.2 of the *EA Act*). It can provide the flexibility to assess projects according to their scale, potential environmental effects, and level of public concern.

Provincial park and conservation reserve projects meet the *EA Act* definition because:

- All of the projects take place within or for Ontario provincial parks and conservation reserves, which are components of a province-wide system of protected areas. The goals, objectives, and principles of the provincial parks and conservation reserves systems, set limits on the type and scale of projects that can occur.
- An extensive set of acts, regulations, policies, procedures, guidelines and standards set additional limitations on projects for provincial parks and conservation reserves, and ensure consistency with the system.

This Class EA also identifies other projects that may take place in provincial parks and conservation reserves, that:

- For various reasons, will be evaluated and approved under other class environmental assessments or declaration orders.

- May be evaluated and approved under individual environmental assessments, because of the greater scale of their effects and the greater difficulty of mitigating them, or;
- Are by law not subject to the EA Act.

Although in these cases the Class EA may simply direct the reader elsewhere, it still provides a one-stop catalogue of how the projects that can occur in a park or conservation reserve are dealt with.

Prior to the approval of the final Class EA, projects in provincial parks and recommended provincial parks are covered by Exemption Order MNR-59/2. Establishing new provincial parks and conservation reserves are covered under Orders MNR-61, MNR-63 and MNR-65. These four Orders all recognize the need for longer-term *EA Act* coverage for both provincial parks and conservation reserves.

The Class EA will replace the various processes conducted under the previous exemptions and other *EA Act* requirements with a uniform and more rigorous and comprehensive process, described in a single document, that will apply to all provincial park and conservation reserve projects that fall within the defined class. It is intended to provide a good understanding among MNR staff, government agencies and the public of the requirements for each type of project.

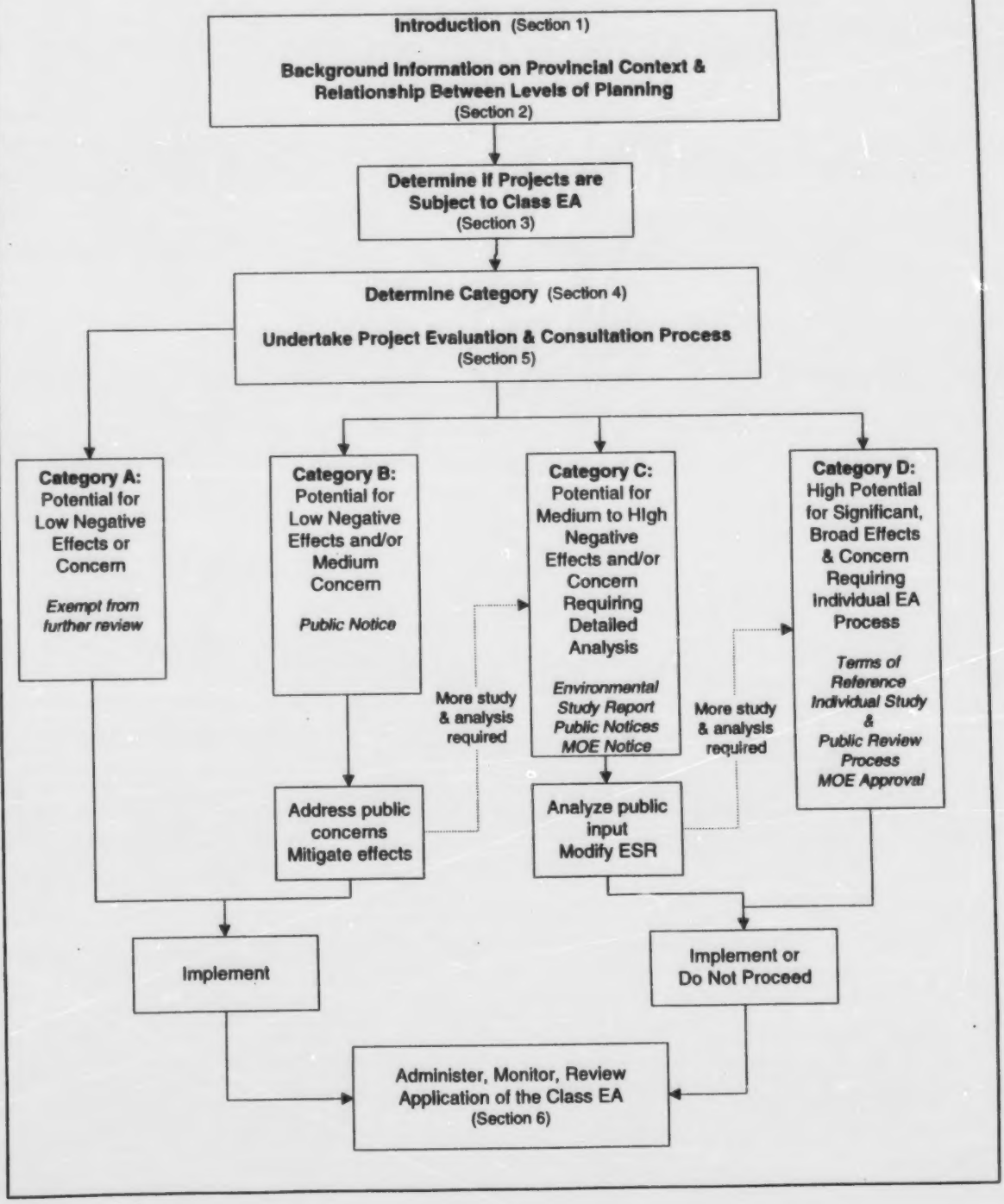
1.3 Structure of The Class EA

This Draft Class EA document is organized as follows (refer to Figure 1):

- **Section 1** introduces the Class EA in terms of its purpose and rationale.
- **Section 2** introduces MNR's planning system that underlies this Class EA and the relationship between the different levels of planning.
- **Section 3** defines what this Class EA applies to, where it applies, and how it relates to other *EA Act* processes.
- **Section 4** outlines four categories within which projects fall, ranging from approval to proceed without further evaluation or consultation (Category A) to individual environmental assessment (Category D). The section explains how each project will be assigned to one of these four categories through a screening process, based on its potential for significant negative environmental effects.
- **Section 5** describes the planning processes to be followed for Category B and C projects. Once a project has been assigned to Category D, it becomes subject to the individual environmental assessment requirements of the EA Act.
- **Section 6** describes administrative requirements for monitoring and maintaining the Class EA, including procedures related to amendments and bump ups.
- **Appendix 1** is a Glossary of Terms, while **Appendix 2** is a table describing individual projects and how they are categorized under this Class EA or covered under other *EA Act* processes. The additional appendices provide background information and guidance.

Sections 1 through 6 and Appendices 1 and 2 comprise this Class EA. The remaining appendices are included in the document for reference only.

Figure 1. Structure of the Class EA for Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves.


Introduction (Section 1)
Background Information on Provincial Context & Relationship Between Levels of Planning
(Section 2)
Determine if Projects are Subject to Class EA
(Section 3)
Determine Category (Section 4)
Undertake Project Evaluation & Consultation Process
(Section 5)
Category A: Potential for Low Negative Effects or Concern
Exempt from further review
Category B: Potential for Low Negative Effects and/or Medium Concern
Public Notice
Category C: Potential for Medium to High Negative Effects and/or Concern Requiring Detailed Analysis
Environmental Study Report
Public Notices
MOE Notice
Category D: High Potential for Significant, Broad Effects & Concern Requiring Individual EA Process
Terms of Reference
Individual Study & Public Review Process
MOE Approval
More study & analysis required
More study & analysis required
Address public concerns Mitigate effects
Analyze public input Modify ESR
Implement
Implement or Do Not Proceed
Administer, Monitor, Review Application of the Class EA
(Section 6)

2. Provincial Context

The Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) administers Ontario's provincial parks through Ontario Parks, and conservation reserves through its district and regional offices of the Field Services Division. The following description of MNR's planning system and the description of the relationship of the management direction to this Class EA is provided primarily for context to the Class EA undertakings described in Section 3.

2.1 MNR's Planning System

MNR's planning system has four levels as illustrated in Figure 2, which result in progressively more detailed and specific decisions. Appendix 4 presents a summary of each level. This Class EA is concerned with the fourth level, implementation.

As part of its responsibilities under the *Environmental Bill of Rights* (1993), MNR has also prepared a *Statement of Environmental Values* to describe how the principles of that Act are applied when making decisions that may have a significant effect on the environment. This document is available from MNR or on the Environmental Registry (www.ene.gov.on.ca/envision/ebr/).

The following sections describe aspects of the planning system that have a more direct relationship with implementation level planning.

2.2 Management Direction and this Class EA

MNR seeks to integrate its planning processes where it is practical and appropriate to do so. For example:

- Management direction for provincial parks or conservation reserves may be planned in conjunction with other MNR management planning processes such as forest, fire or fisheries management plans, or in the case of specific projects, through other relevant MNR planning processes. In these cases, the processes are harmonized.

- Management planning processes may overlap with project evaluation processes that are the subject of this Class EA. To avoid duplication, the project evaluation process to be conducted under this Class EA will take into consideration the planning and consultation steps that have already been completed. Sections 4 and 5 in this Class EA account for this.

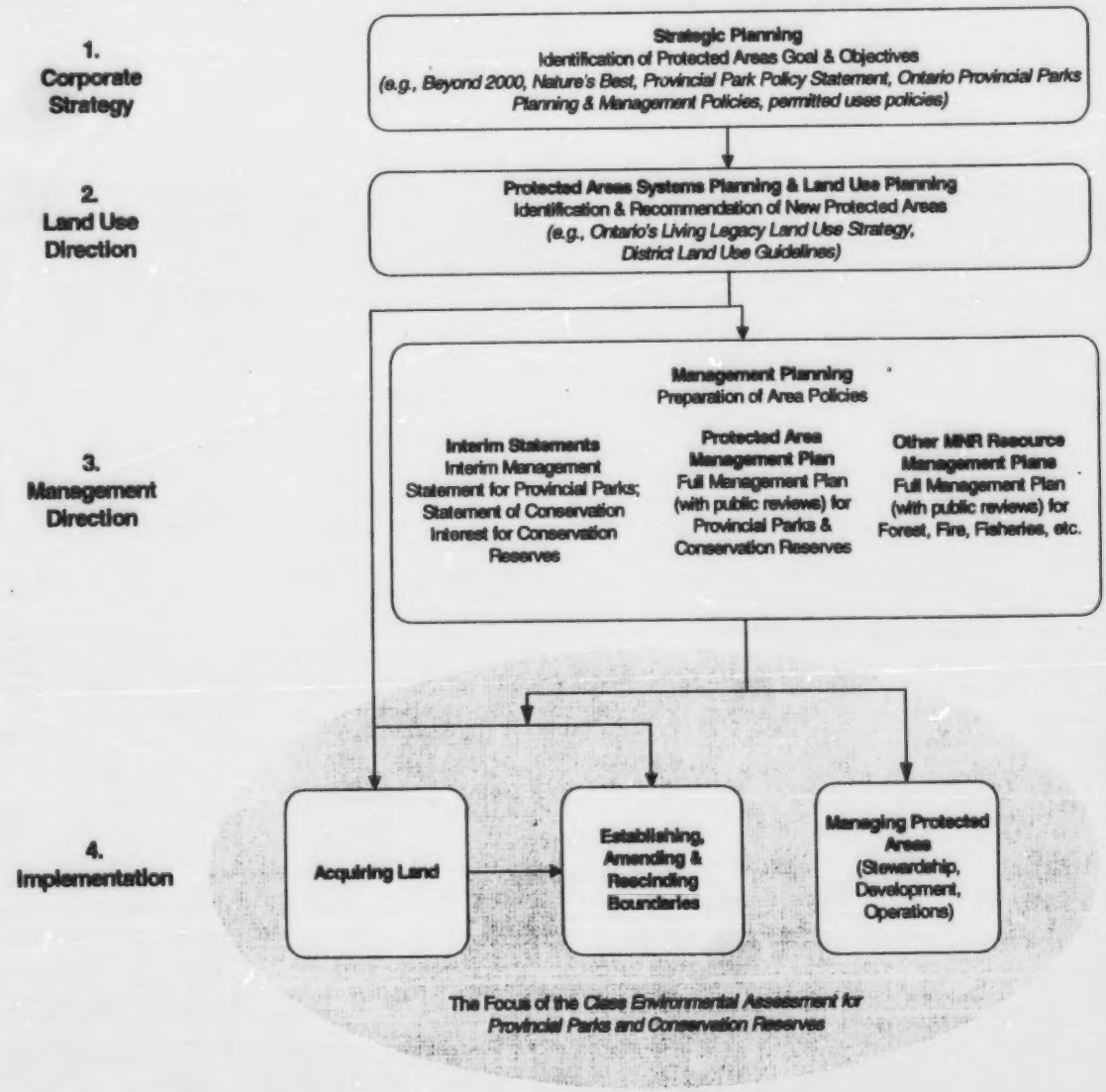
Management Direction Defined
"Management Direction" means an interim management statement (IMS) for a provincial park, a statement of conservation interest (SCI) for a conservation reserve, or a management plan for a park or a conservation reserve. As described in Appendix 4 (part 4.3), these planning documents provide direction in keeping with their purpose and different information standards.

MNR will adhere to the following planning principles:

- All projects must conform with approved MNR policies for protected areas as well as land use direction or the appropriate type of management direction.
- All significant developments or activities must be planned through an open and rigorous public process.
- All decisions regarding the type, extent and location of significant facilities must be supported by appropriate levels of information (e.g., resource inventories).
- All development will be carried out in accordance with approved standards and guidelines, and in conformance with relevant federal, provincial and municipal statutes.

- All projects must conform with the *EA Act*. This Class EA provides this assurance for projects described in Section 3 .1 (Class of Undertakings). Section 3.5 describes how various other environmental assessment mechanisms may be harmonized with this Class EA for Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves.

Figure 2. The Class EA for Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves in the context of MNR's planning system (see Appendix 4). The shaded area in this diagram illustrates the area of application of this Class EA.


1. Corporate Strategy
Strategic Planning
Identification of Protected Areas Goal & Objectives
(e.g., Beyond 2000, Nature's Best, Provincial Park Policy Statement, Ontario Provincial Parks Planning & Management Policies, permitted uses policies)
2. Land Use Direction
Protected Areas Systems Planning & Land Use Planning
Identification & Recommendation of New Protected Areas
(e.g., Ontario's Living Legacy Land Use Strategy, District Land Use Guidelines)
3. Management Direction
Management Planning
Preparation of Area Policies
Interim Statements
Interim Management Statement for Provincial Parks; Statement of Conservation Interest for Conservation Reserves
Protected Area Management Plan
Full Management Plan (with public reviews) for Provincial Parks & Conservation Reserves
Other MNR Resource Management Plans
Full Management Plan (with public reviews) for Forest, Fire, Fisheries, etc.
4. Implementation
Acquiring Land
Establishing, Amending & Rescinding Boundaries
Managing Protected Areas (Stewardship, Development, Operations)
The Focus of the Class Environmental Assessment for Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves

3. Projects Subject to this Class EA

3.1 The Class of Undertakings

The following types of projects are subject to this Class EA:

- Establishing, amending and rescinding boundary regulations for a new or existing provincial park or conservation reserve, including areas recommended through a land use planning process.
- Acquiring land for a new or existing provincial park or conservation reserve.
- Managing existing and recommended provincial parks or conservation reserves.

These groups of projects are described in more detail below, and specific projects are listed in Appendix 2.

3.1.1 Establishing, Amending and Rescinding Boundary Regulations

The Lieutenant Governor in Council commonly establishes, amends, and in some cases rescinds boundary regulations for provincial parks under the *Provincial Parks Act*, and for conservation reserves under the *Public Lands Act*. The procedures for evaluating the effects of these actions and implementing the regulations, including public consultation, have evolved over many years and are well documented (see Appendix 4, "Provincial Context").

While provincial park lands are normally owned by the Crown, in some cases, privately owned lands are purchased, or leased to, MNR and either included within a park's regulated boundaries or established as a new park.

Appendix 4 explains how provincial parks and conservation reserves are selected through land use planning processes. Land use policy and planning processes that identify and recommend new parks and reserves are not the subject of this Class EA. It is only after the land use planning recommendations have been made that this Class EA applies. Through the Class EA process, the generalized boundary for the recommended provincial park or conservation reserve is refined and regulated.

3.1.2 Acquiring Land

MNR acquires private lands and lands owned by other public agencies to protect natural and cultural heritage and provide recreational opportunities in support of the Ministry's vision and mission (see Appendix 4). Examples of mechanisms used include:

- Purchase.
- Donations.
- Land exchanges.
- Other approaches (leases, easements, etc. with private landowners).

These transactions are conducted through the Ontario Realty Corporation (ORC) or in cooperation with non-government partners with goals complementary to MNR's, such as the Ontario Parks Legacy 2000 partnership with the Nature Conservancy of Canada.

The requirements of this Class EA for Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves will be followed when ORC acquires lands for provincial parks or conservation reserves. Once a property is acquired, the Class EA needs associated with Section 3.1.1 will apply with respect to regulating the provincial park or conservation reserve. However, although acquisition is a Category A project, per Appendix 2, MNR will take the precautionary step of completing Table 4.1 (screening) prior to acquisition, to identify potential issues that may warrant a more in depth consideration.

3.1.3 Managing Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves

Many types of projects occur in regulated and, to a much lesser extent, in recommended provincial parks and conservation reserves, including projects to protect resource values, manage uses and activities, develop new facilities, and implement the following:

- Management direction (management plan, Statement of Conservation Interest, Interim Management Statement).
- Plans and strategies for resource management, facility development, or operations.
- Site plans.
- Construction projects, including sewage and water systems.
- Routine operational activities.

Some of these projects occur in only one or a few parks or conservation reserves, while others are widespread across the protected areas system. For example, most conservation reserves do not have intensive development. Projects normally only proceed either within or for a provincial park or conservation reserve once the appropriate type of management direction is in place (that is, a management plan, interim management statement or statement of conservation interest). Where exceptions are provided for, projects must still conform with an approved Land Use Strategy, *Ontario Provincial Parks Planning and Management Policies*, or MNR's conservation reserves policies.

Resource Stewardship

Projects involving the stewardship of the significant natural, cultural and recreational resources found in provincial parks and conservation reserves are listed in Appendix 2. In some cases, little or no active intervention is required. In other cases, where past and ongoing human and natural changes influence the ecosystems and values that parks or reserves were established to protect, both passive and active management may be required. For example, under the direction of a fire management plan, managed natural fire or prescribed burning may be used to promote natural succession or to mimic natural processes.

Development

Development includes the design and construction of buildings, structures, roads, trails or other works to support resource stewardship (such as erosion control), recreation and tourism, or provincial park or conservation reserve operations. Appendix 2 describes the normal range of development projects. In provincial parks, development projects are normally undertaken to implement a management plan, with the support of site plans, building and construction plans and codes, and well-developed policies, procedures, manuals, and guidelines (see Appendix 3). Similarly, development in conservation reserves will use this suite of policy tools to guide implementation activities.

Operations

Operations include the maintenance, operation, and decommissioning of facilities, the provision and administration of services, and the authorization of uses. Again, the normal range of operations projects is described in Appendix 2. Human health and safety is a priority. In provincial parks, operations are normally undertaken within the context of well-developed policies, procedures, manuals, and guidelines (see Appendix 3). Similarly, operations in conservation reserves will use this suite of policy tools to guide implementation activities.

3.1.4 Similarities and Differences Among the Undertakings

A Class EA is required by the *EA Act* to describe "the similarities and differences to be expected among the undertakings in the class". In terms of similarities, every undertaking under this Class EA is intended to help achieve MNR's vision of sustainable development and mission of ecological sustainability as well as the objectives of the provincial parks and conservation reserves systems (see Appendix 4). The most important similarity among the undertakings is their common purpose and their location on lands protected by special statute, regulation, and policy.

In terms of differences, while most Class EA's deal with a narrow range of related projects (such as road projects, flood control projects, etc.), this one deals with a variety of projects under different circumstances. As of early 2001, protected areas account for nearly nine percent of the entire area of Ontario, and range from enormous wilderness areas like Polar Bear Provincial Park on Hudson and James Bays, to small pockets of intensive recreational use like Sibbald Point Provincial Park on Lake Simcoe. Consequently, projects in protected areas vary enormously in type, magnitude, duration, and extent, as demonstrated by the list of projects in Appendix 2.

3.2 Area of the Undertaking

Projects described in this Class EA are normally carried out in the following areas:

- All provincial parks in regulation under the *Provincial Parks Act*, and conservation reserves in regulation under the *Public Lands Act*. This would also include private lands that are, through agreement, regulated as a provincial park.
- All recommended provincial parks and conservation reserves not yet in regulation but confirmed in an approved land use strategy or management direction.
- Other areas outside of recommended or regulated provincial parks or conservation reserves where MNR proposes to carry out projects for these protected area programs.

3.3 The Environment Affected and the Expected Range of Effects

Section 1 of the *EA Act* defines "environment" to include not only the natural environment, but also social, economic, and cultural conditions, human-made works, and the relationships among all of these. The projects described in Section 3.1 and Appendix 2 may affect an individual provincial park or conservation reserve, nearby lands, waters, and resources, or nearby communities. As described in Appendix 4, consideration of the environment and consultation with the public occurs at several levels in the MNR planning system before project planning and implementation reaches the stages covered by this Class EA.

For example, inventories and studies are often undertaken in support of park or conservation reserve management planning processes to understand:

- The location and significance of natural and cultural heritage values.
- Economic effects of planning options and decisions.
- Social and cultural preferences of resource users and the general public.

These inventories and studies aid in zoning (i.e., setting aside) areas for protection, access, and development. This helps ensure that projects are planned and located in a manner that will minimize negative effects, maximize positive effects on provincial park or conservation reserve environments, and neighbouring communities, even before this Class EA comes into play.

A Class EA is required by the *EA Act* to describe "the expected range of environmental effects that may result from proceeding with the undertakings in the class". Section 3.1.4 notes the diversity of Ontario's protected areas and the undertakings within them. As a result, potential environmental effects may vary enormously. More detail on the range of effects that can be anticipated is provided in the discussion of screening in Section 4.

3.4 Partnerships

MNR's methods of conducting business continue to evolve, and many management activities traditionally carried out by Ministry staff are now carried out through partnerships. In provincial parks and conservation reserves, partnerships generally are of two types:

- **Partnerships with non-profit, non-government groups.** Examples include Ontario Parks Legacy 2000 with the Nature Conservancy of Canada, the Friends organizations in place in many parks, and the Community Fisheries and Wildlife Involvement Program. The purpose of the partnerships is to directly involve these groups in resource stewardship, development and some aspects of provincial park or conservation reserve operations, such as natural heritage education, as a means to more effectively undertake these activities.
- **Partnerships with business.** Examples at the individual provincial park or conservation reserve level include providing land tenure to, or entering into concession agreements with, tourism and visitor service businesses, to more effectively provide needed recreational and tourism services.

In all such cases, MNR first reviews the proposal and determines if it is reasonable, appropriate and consistent with management objectives for the provincial park or conservation reserve before entering into an agreement. Once MNR has executed a written agreement, the requirements of this Class EA will then apply to projects arising from the agreement.

MNR is the proponent for all projects that it proposes either in or for provincial parks or conservation reserves that are subject to this Class EA. MNR is the co-proponent for joint projects.

Private proposals in support of protected area program (e.g., a tourist accommodation) will be subject to the requirements of this Class EA. The proponent for private proposals would in most cases be required to take on the responsibility of fulfilling the obligations of this Class EA as outlined in Sections 4 and 5, such as preparing an Environmental Study Report or consulting with the public. However, the proponent remains entirely accountable to MNR for the completion of all requirements fully in accordance with this Class EA, and MNR remains responsible for all decision-making and approvals.

3.5 Integration With Other Environmental Assessment Processes

This section describes two types of situations in which the process required by this Class EA may be integrated with other environmental assessment processes:

- Other EA mechanisms used by MNR that may by applied to provincial parks or conservation reserves in certain circumstances.
- EA mechanisms used by other agencies.

3.5.1 Other MNR EA Mechanisms

A single project for which MNR is the proponent may be located in a provincial park and/or a conservation reserve and on adjacent Crown land. In such cases, MNR staff may undertake a single evaluation and consultation process. Final approval for a project in a provincial park will be required by the responsible Ontario Parks Zone Manager, and for conservation reserves by the responsible District Manager.

Three examples are described below--one related to canoe routes, one to snowmobile crossings, and the other to forest access road crossings.

Canoe Routes and Snowmobile Crossings

In the case of a canoe route or a snowmobile trail crossing through a provincial park or conservation reserve, the project evaluation and consultation requirements of this Class EA will be applied, or incorporated into another process (e.g., Class EA for Small Scale projects). The higher evaluation and consultation standards will be adopted to ensure that protected area values and stakeholder concerns are fully considered.

Forest Access Roads and Water Crossings

Three scenarios related to forest access roads and water crossings are permitted by provincial policy, as follows:

- Crossings of linear protected areas, as described in article 20 of the Ontario Forest Accord (1999);
- Future proposed crossings of waterway provincial parks that may be considered in accordance with the Ontario Provincial Parks Planning and Management Policies (1992), and;
- Existing forest access roads and water crossings that pass through existing or recommended provincial parks or conservation reserves.

Evaluation of such roads and bridges will be undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the Class EA for Timber Management (1994), including the application of the Forest Management Planning Manual and relevant guidelines such as the Environmental Guidelines for Access Roads and Water Crossings.

In addition, as a means to identify any specific concerns that may require special consideration and to ensure protection of values, MNR will:

- Complete a review of the screening criteria in Table 4.1.
- Examine available inventory reports to identify values in the area of the project, and if necessary, complete an evaluation of the area (this requirement is consistent with Section 2.2 of this Class EA and article 20 of the Ontario Forest Accord).
- Ensure that the project is consistent with the appropriate type of management direction where this is available. If necessary, the management direction may be amended as part of the public consultation process being carried out for Forest Management Plan.

Other MNR Mechanisms

Appendix 2 includes examples of projects that may be subject to other existing MNR exemption or declaration orders as opposed to this Class EA. Projects that have not been listed in Appendix 2 and are not the subject of this Class EA may be carried out in accordance with another MNR Class EA in a provincial park or conservation reserve, exemption/declaration order, or an individual EA.

3.5.2 EA Mechanisms Used by Other Agencies and Sectors

Two kinds of EA mechanisms that are used by other agencies and sectors are described in this section:

- EA mechanisms used by another agency for an MNR project.
- EA mechanisms used by another agency or a sector that are not for an MNR project.

Projects for MNR

Occasionally, MNR projects are proposed for a protected area that also are the subject of another agency's EA requirements. This Class EA for Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves shall apply, and where appropriate may be harmonized with other EA approaches.

For example, this Class EA will apply when the Ontario Realty Corporation carries out land acquisition on behalf of MNR. If a municipal sewage or water project is proposed that will serve the needs of the municipality and the provincial park or conservation reserve, a single process may be carried out that meets the needs of this Class EA.

Projects by Other Proponents Not for the Protected Area Program

Some projects occur in provincial parks and conservation reserves that are not intended to meet protected area program goals and objectives. Such projects are not subject to this Class EA, and are dealt with through other environmental assessment mechanisms. As listed in Appendix 2, these include projects that are proposed to cross a provincial park or conservation reserve, such as highways, transmission lines or pipelines.

In January 2000 the Ministry of the Environment posted a proposed regulation on the environmental registry that would apply environmental assessment requirements to electricity sector projects. MNR will further consider the requirements of this new regulation if and when it comes into force, with respect to the kinds of situations noted below.

The following electricity projects either exist now or may be expected to arise in the future, subject to provincial policy approval:

- Existing waterpower facilities and associated infrastructure (e.g., transformer stations, transmission lines, access roads) within a protected area may undergo maintenance or modification of the facility from time to time, for example to improve efficiency.
- Development of a new waterpower facility and associated infrastructure in a new protected area where a binding commitment by the Crown was made between April 6, 1990 (when MNR's Water Power Program Guidelines were approved) and the release of the proposed Ontario's Living Legacy Land Use Strategy on March 29, 1999.
- Maintenance and modification of existing electricity transmission line corridors.
- Development and maintenance of new electricity transmission line corridors.

In these and other types of situations such as pipeline corridors (rights of way) that may be permitted in accordance with provincial policy, MNR will participate in the required environmental assessment

process, or, where no process is required, may impose requirements to ensure that protected area values are properly identified and considered.

As a matter of principle, MNR recognizes that greater care that should be exercised with respect to protected areas. Therefore, when commenting on proposals or processes for these types of projects and/or where a permit or disposition would be required, MNR would:

- Require proponents to apply the screening criteria in Table 4.1 as a means to identify issues and protected area values that require special consideration.
- Identify additional studies or consultation that proponents may need to undertake to verify potential effects, or to modify practices or approaches in order to mitigate potential negative effects.
- Require the examination of alternatives to and alternative methods for carrying out the project.

Such needs may be administered as a pre-condition for the decision on whether to issue a permit or disposition (per Appendix 2). Proponents will be advised to consult with MNR early in the project planning process.

3.6 Relationship of Class EA to Other Legislation and Policy

MNR must comply with a wide array of federal and provincial legislation and government policy, as well as municipal plans and by-laws that are associated with the management of natural resources (Appendix 7). MNR takes these into consideration when planning and evaluating projects and seeks approvals or permits as required. Appropriate agencies are also included as part of consultation processes (Appendix 6). For example, consideration is required to ensure that activities are not in conflict with:

- The *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act*, which may apply to projects related to fisheries and navigable waters. Appendix 7 describes the situations when these requirements may apply.
- The *Niagara Escarpment Planning and Development Act*.
- The *Planning Act*, in terms of municipal *Official Plans* and the *Provincial Policy Statement*.

MNR will aim to contact relevant agencies early in the project evaluation so that required processes can be integrated and harmonized with this Class EA to the extent possible.

4. Class EA Categories and the Screening Process

MNR has considerable experience over several decades in planning and implementing the range of projects that are the subject of the Class EA. Since the *EA Act* came into force, MNR has also developed and implemented two other Class EAs, and the conditions associated with numerous declaration orders. A variety of policies, procedures, guidelines and support tools have been developed to implement projects, in accordance with these requirements (see Appendix 3). Drawing upon this experience, this section presents:

- Four planning categories that recognize varying degrees of potential for significant negative environmental effects and public and agency concern.
- A screening process and criteria to be used to identify potential negative and positive effects, and to assign projects to categories.

Overview
The screening process enables projects to be assigned to one of four categories. The categories determine the level of detail and consultation required to evaluate projects.

4.1 Planning Categories

This Class EA assigns projects within the class to categories in order to:

- Expedite planning and implementation for the majority of projects that have low potential for significant negative environmental effects or public and agency concern (Category A).
- Focus on addressing public concerns and mitigation for a minority of projects that may have medium to high potential for significant negative environmental effects and public and agency concern.
- Enable the appropriate planning process to be prescribed for Categories B and C.
- Identify projects that will require an individual EA (Category D).

4.1.1 Category A – Potential for low negative environmental effects and/or public or agency concern

These projects consist of minor administrative procedures, low intensity facility development, and routine resource management and operations. In MNR's experience these projects have minimal potential for negative environmental effects (social, economic or natural environment) or agency or public concern. Planning and implementation of these projects is allowed to proceed in accordance with relevant MNR policies, procedures, manuals and guidelines without further public review or approval.

An MNR manager has the option of subjecting a Category A project to screening if it presents some potential for concern. Appendix 2 lists Category A projects that can proceed if they are identified in the appropriate type of management direction, and other Category A projects that do not need to be specified in a management direction.

4.1.2 Category B – Potential for low negative environmental effects and/or medium potential for public or agency concern

Sufficient environmental controls and guidelines are in place for these projects to proceed with appropriate mitigation, but there may be some potential for public concern that warrants a public notice. Projects listed in Appendix 2 as potentially falling within Categories B, C or D proceed through the screening process described in Section 4.2. Where a project is identified in Category B, MNR will carry out the planning and consultation process as described in Section 5.1.

Appendix 2 also indicates that "other" projects, not foreseen and described in the appendix, could fall into any of the four categories. If screening determines that the "other" project has low potential for environmental effects and does not qualify for Category B, it will be assigned to Category A, provided this can be clearly justified and documented through the screening process.

4.1.3 Category C – Potential for medium to high negative environmental effects and/or public or agency concern

These projects require much more information and analysis and a more comprehensive public and agency review process than Category B projects. Projects that the screening process assigns to Category C will proceed through the planning and consultation process described in Section 5.2, including preparation of an Environmental Study Report.

4.1.4 Category D – Subject to an Individual EA

Some projects may be found to lie outside the scope of Categories A, B or C, and should instead be subject to the requirements for an individual EA under Part II of the *EA Act*. These projects would have potential for high negative effects, and would require public and agency input to resolve difficult tradeoff decisions. These projects will be identified through the screening process described in Section 4.2.

MNR may decide to assign a project to Category D based on its own conclusions arising out of the screening process, or as a result of concern expressed by agencies, interest groups or individuals. A project may also be "bumped up" to an individual EA under a Part II Order by the Minister of the Environment, as described in Section 6.6, following the project evaluation process described in Section 5.

4.2 The Screening Process

Screening is a common method used to identify potential negative and positive environmental effects associated with projects. Screening is a way to confirm our understanding of potential effects and the need for remedial effort, and to ensure that all aspects have been considered.

This section presents the screening process and criteria that would be used to confirm the placement of a project in the appropriate category.

The screening process will be conducted in six steps, as described below and as illustrated in Figure 4.

Step 1: Assess Project Against List of Projects (Appendix 2)

MNR staff ensure the proposed project complies with policy directives and, using Appendix 2, determine whether the project:

- Falls into Category A.
- Requires screening to determine whether it falls into Category B, C or D.
- Is not listed in Appendix 2 and requires screening to determine whether it falls into Category A, B, C or D.
- Is not subject to this Class EA but should instead be dealt with as indicated in Appendix 2.

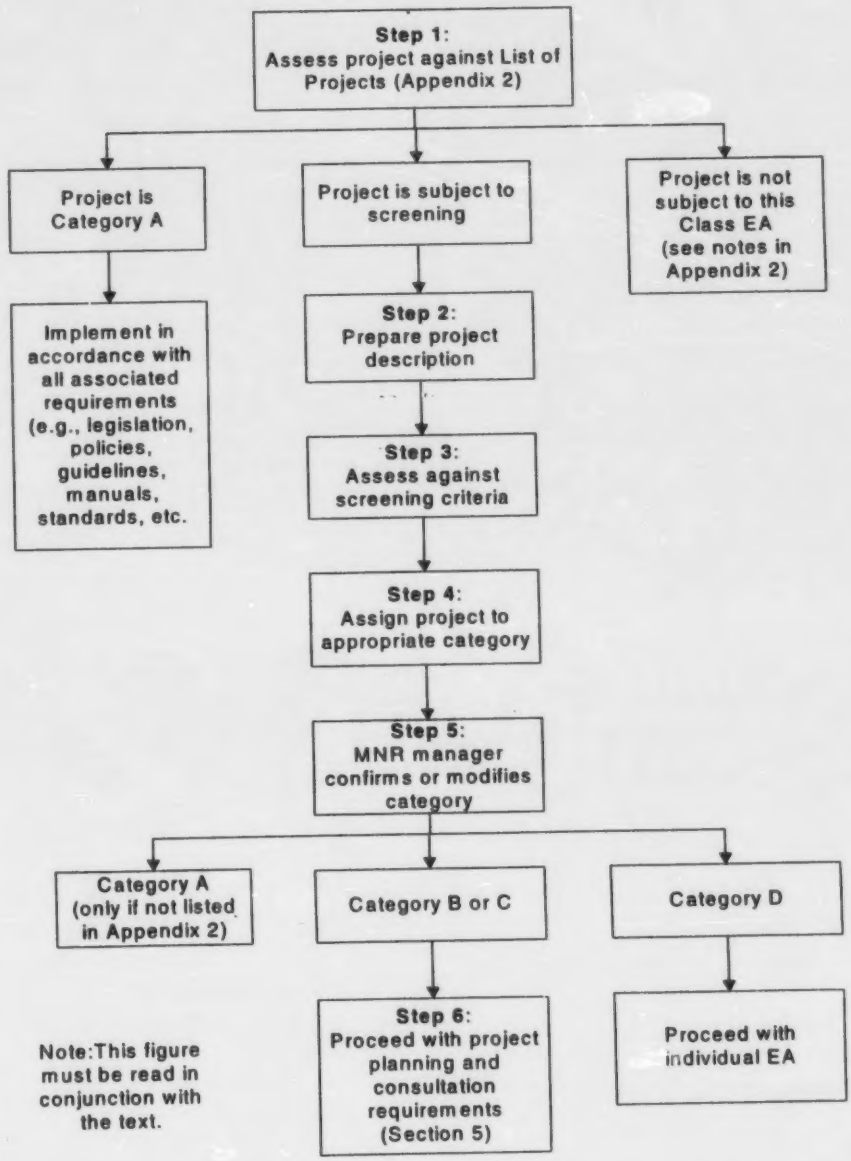
As described in Section 4.1.1, projects determined to be in Category A are approved to proceed without further public review. Implementation is subject to all relevant legislation as well as MNR policies, procedures, manuals and guidelines.

Step 2: Prepare Project Description

A project that is determined to require screening continues through the screening process. MNR staff open a project file and prepare a project description. The description should include:

- The purpose and rationale, the problem to be addressed or the opportunity to be pursued in implementing the project.

Figure 4. The Screening Process


Step 1: Assess project against List of Projects (Appendix 2)
Project is Category A
Project is subject to screening
Project is not subject to this Class EA (see notes in Appendix 2)
Implement in accordance with all associated requirements (e.g., legislation, policies, guidelines, manuals, standards, etc.
Step 2: Prepare project description
Step 3: Assess against screening criteria
Step 4: Assign project to appropriate category
Step 5: MNR manager confirms or modifies category
Category A (only if not listed in Appendix 2)
Category B or C
Category D
Step 6: Proceed with project planning and consultation requirements (Section 5)
Proceed with individual EA
Note:This figure must be read in conjunction with the text.

- Details of the project, including its location, the study area that would be affected on and off site by its construction and operation, and its duration. Project effects may extend outside a provincial park or conservation reserve boundary, for example, where there are potential effects on nearby communities. The duration of a development project is its construction period, while the duration of a resource stewardship or an operations project is its period of implementation or operation.
- Alternatives to and alternative methods of implementation, including the null alternative. An explanation should be provided if no alternatives are being considered or are available.
- Preliminary evaluation (cost, feasibility, effectiveness, and potential effects).
- Applicable policies, procedures, manuals and guidelines, and other permits or approvals required to undertake the project (see Appendices 3 and 7).
- Appropriate mitigation features that would be integral to the design of the project. Such mitigation techniques are often found in relevant MNR policies, procedures, manuals and guidelines.

Step 3: Assess Against Screening Criteria

MNR staff review the potential net effects of the project, with appropriate mitigation techniques in place, against the screening criteria in Table 4.1. Each of the significance factors and considerations described in Appendix 5, "Assessing the Significance of Environmental Effects", should be considered when assigning a rating under each of the screening criteria (see Section 4.3).

Where a residual negative effect is identified under a screening criterion, MNR staff provide a brief rationale for the assigned rating, either in the table or, where appropriate, in separate supporting documentation. Any requirement for additional information gathering, research, evaluation, or monitoring should be identified.

Since the assignment of projects to categories is based primarily on identified negative effects under particular criteria, positive effects identified under other criteria would not normally change the assigned category. However, in some cases, as noted in Table 4.2, high negative and positive concerns may suggest a complex and polarized situation and may affect the placement of a project in a category.

A record of the screening process including the project description, the completed screening table and any supporting rationale would be retained on the project file as part of the public record.

Step 4: Assign Project to Appropriate Category

MNR staff use the ratings from step 3 and the criteria in Section 4.4 to assign the project to Category B, C, or D. As described in Section 4.1.2, an unforeseen "other" project that is not identified in Appendix 2 may also be assigned to Category A at this time, provided this assignment can be clearly justified and documented. Projects listed in Appendix 2 that require screening may not be assigned to Category A.

Step 5: MNR Manager Confirms or Modifies Category

The appropriate MNR manager (the zone manager for a provincial park, or the district manager for a conservation reserve) reviews the assessment, requests additional information where necessary, and confirms or modifies the staff determination of the category. If the manager changes the category, documentation of this decision is required, including the rationale for the change.

Step 6: Proceed with Planning and Consultation Requirements

For projects assigned to Categories B or C, MNR staff proceed with the project planning and consultation requirements described in Section 5. Projects assigned to Category D are subject to the requirements of Part II of the *EA Act*, in which case, MNR field staff should consult MNR's EA specialists for further direction.

4.3 Assigning High, Medium and Low Effects in the Screening Process

While it is not be practical for this Class EA to provide detailed instructions for assigning the degree of effect in every case, the following guidance explains the intended meaning of each of the rating categories:

- A "nil" effect would be assigned where a criterion clearly does not apply.
- A "low" net effect would be assigned where there is a high degree of certainty as to the effect, and where the effect has minimal significance.
- A "medium" net effect may be based on reasonable certainty, and may be significant in combination with other medium and high net effects.
- A "high" net effect may reflect high level of certainty that a significant effect will occur, or a low level of certainty about one or more effects and a need for further evaluation and exploration of mitigation options. One or more "high" negative net effects may result in a decision to seek other ways of resolving a problem or meeting program objectives.

To assign the rating in Table 4.1, the reviewer checks-off the appropriate column, and notes any clarifying comments or rationale for the rating. The screening criteria are not intended to be numerically scored or tallied as this would act against the intent of identifying the criteria of concern. If the effect is unknown, this should be noted in the comment column.

The screening should give full consideration to anticipated stakeholder interest. Where there is uncertainty as to the possible interest, the MNR manager may elect to issue a notice to indicate that MNR is seeking input to a project screening.

If the project consists of more than one component that would, by itself, be subject to screening, the aggregate effects of all the components should be considered in identifying potential effects.

Table 4.1: Screening Criteria

The reviewer should read each criterion as beginning with the phrase *"This project may…."*. All criteria apply to the environment inside as well as outside the provincial park or conservation reserve.

Screening Criteria	Rating of Potential Effect							Comments, Rationale
	-H	-M	-L	Nil	+L	+M	+H	
General Considerations								
▪ Affect the values for which the provincial park or conservation reserve was established								
Natural Environment Considerations								
▪ affect air quality								
▪ affect water quality or quantity (ground or surface)								
▪ affect species at risk or their habitat								
▪ affect significant earth or life science features								
▪ affect fish or other aquatic species, communities, or habitat								
▪ include or use land subject to natural or human-made hazards								
▪ affect the recovery of a species under a special management program (e.g. elk restoration)								
▪ affect ecological integrity								
▪ affect terrestrial wildlife or habitat, linkages or corridors (including movement of resident or migratory species)								
▪ affect natural vegetation and habitat through fragmentation								
▪ affect permafrost								
▪ affect drainage, sedimentation or erosion								
▪ release contaminants in soils, sediments								
▪ create excessive waste materials								
▪ affect areas of natural and scientific interest or provincially significant wetlands								
▪ affect other (specify)								
Land Use, Resource Management Considerations								
▪ affect remoteness (access to inaccessible areas)								
▪ affect or obstruct navigation								
▪ affect other projects within a park or reserve								
▪ affect other projects outside a park or reserve								
▪ affect traffic patterns								
▪ affect public or private recreation								
▪ commit a significant amount of a non-renewable resource (e.g. aggregates)								

Screening Criteria	Rating of Potential Effect							Comments, Rationale
	-H	-M	-L	Nil	+L	+M	+H	
▪ affect noise levels								
▪ affect views or aesthetics								
▪ be a precondition or justification for implementing another project								
▪ affect uses, persons or property outside park or reserve								
▪ affect other (specify)								
Social, Cultural, and Economic Considerations								
▪ affect cultural heritage or landscape features								
▪ displace people, businesses, institutions, or public facilities								
▪ affect community character, enjoyment of property, or local amenities								
▪ increase demands on government services or infrastructure								
▪ affect public health and/or safety								
▪ affect local economies								
▪ affect local businesses								
▪ affect other (specify)								
Aboriginal Considerations								
▪ affect First Nation reserves or communities								
▪ affect spiritual, ceremonial or cultural sites								
▪ affect traditional land or resource uses, or affect economic activities								
▪ affect Aboriginal values								
▪ affect other (specify)								

4.4 Criteria for Assigning Projects to Categories A, B, C, or D

The criteria listed in Table 4.2 are intended to help MNR staff allocate projects to the appropriate category. Projects (other than those listed as category A's) must be considered on a case by case basis because of the wide variety of effects and levels of public interest that can be generated by similar projects in different locations.

When assigning projects to categories, MNR staff should ensure that the screening process and the rationale for decision making are thoroughly and accurately documented.

The category determination will be made through balanced consideration of all the ratings from Table 4.1, as well as the criteria for assigning projects to categories, provided in Table 4.2. In some instances one criterion may be sufficient to change the determination; in others, it may be a combination of several criteria.

Table 4.2: Criteria for Assigning Projects to Categories

Potential Effects	Public & Agency Concerns
Category A • Low negative environmental effects with a high degree of certainty • Low intensity (if development) or routine (if resource management or operations) • Effects responsive to appropriate mitigation techniques • If the appropriate type of management direction is in place for the provincial park or conservation reserve, it specifically defines the nature and location of the project and does not require further consideration of alternatives	• Low level of potential interest
Category B • Low negative environmental effects, with a high degree of certainty • Low intensity (if development) or routine (if resource management or operations) • If the appropriate type of management direction is in place for the provincial park or conservation reserve, it specifically defines the nature and location of the project and does not require further consideration of alternatives • Effects responsive to appropriate mitigation techniques	• Medium potential for some public and agency interest
Category C • Medium to high negative effects • There is some uncertainty associated with predictions of effects, requiring additional research and evaluation • The appropriate type of management direction is in place for the provincial park or conservation reserve, but it does not fully define the project, or the plan suggests that alternatives should be considered or additional evaluation carried out • If a project is proposed when the appropriate type of management direction is not in place (see Appendix II, footnote 1) • Effects require mitigation techniques tailored to the project • Potential to reduce negative effects or increase public acceptance by examining other alternatives	• Public and agency interest likely to be high, with potential for adverse reaction, based on experience or previous consultation • Further consultation and consideration of the proposal and reasonable alternatives may reveal appropriate solutions and common understandings
Category D • Several inter-related aspects that have high potential for either positive or negative effects that may conflict, suggesting a complex situation • Potential for serious negative effects on species at risk • Effects require mitigation techniques tailored to the project • Potential to reduce negative effects or increase public acceptance by examining other alternatives • Involves a new or contentious interpretation of management direction or other MNR policy • A distinct benefit can be derived from the process requirements of Part II of the *EA Act*, including terms of reference, formal government review and a decision by the Minister of the Environment (or the Environmental Review Tribunal)	• There is likely to be very adverse public or agency reaction • May be high negative and positive concerns that may be at odds, suggesting a highly polarized and complex situation • Other project categories would not adequately address concerns

5. Project Evaluation and Consultation Processes for Category B and C Projects

This section describes the evaluation, consultation and documentation requirements for Category B and C projects, as illustrated in Figure 5, and requirements for the monitoring of projects. The required process for a Category D project would be determined through the preparation and approval of Terms of Reference under Part II of the *EA Act*.

Sample notices and formats referred to in this Section may be found in Appendix 9.

5.1 Category B Project Evaluation and Consultation Process

Category B projects are described in Section 4.1.2. All information described in the following steps will be placed on a project file, first opened during the screening process (Section 4.2), as part of the public record. The records of any future monitoring required as a result of the evaluation process will also be placed on the project file. The process consists of five steps, as illustrated in Figure 5.

Notices
Category B projects include one notice at the beginning of the process (step 2), and a second when the Notice of Completion to parties who have expressed their interest (step 4).

Step 1: Scoping

MNR staff review the extent of planning and consultation previously conducted in support of the project (for example, through a management planning process). This information is combined with the results of the screening to determine the project evaluation and consultation steps that are remaining and must be completed through this Class EA.

Step 2: Public Notice

At a minimum, this will consist of a mailing to persons and agencies with a known interest, or to those persons and agencies MNR considers to have a potential interest, and/or a local newspaper advertisement, with an invitation to comment within 30 days. Note that news releases do not satisfy the notice requirements, that is, an advertisement is required. If the provincial park or conservation reserve is operating or otherwise has managed entry, this notice will also be clearly posted at the office and/or normal (or authorized) entry points. Where a high level of public interest is anticipated, the MNR manager may undertake other methods of consultation referred to in Appendix 8, either as part of the initial consultation or in response to the level of interest generated by this notice.

- This notice should include the following information:
- A title indicating the project name and location.
- A summary description of the project.
- A map and/or description of the location of the project.
- A summary description of previous MNR planning activities leading to the identification of the project, and a statement that MNR will either:
  - Conduct the complete project evaluation specified for a Category B project under this Class EA, or:
  - Conduct the remaining information gathering, evaluation and consultation required for a Category B project under this Class EA that has not already been conducted under a previous planning process.
- An invitation to provide comments on the proposed project, specifying the deadline (i.e., the last day of

the 30-day period).

- A statement that only those who request notice will be notified directly of the completion of the project evaluation, and that MNR may proceed to implement the project without issuing a further general notice.
- A description of the *EA Act* provisions that enable interested parties to request the Minister of the Environment to bump up the project to an individual EA.
- The name, address, telephone number, fax number and e-mail address of a contact person to whom questions or requests for additional information must be directed, and to whom comments must be sent.
- A statement of the authority under which information is being collected from the public, and of that information's availability and confidentiality under the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

If, as described in Section 4.3 a first notice was issued during a screening process that led to the project being assigned to Category B, there may be no need to conduct this notice.

This notice may generate interest and/or raise issues that may require additional mitigation measures. MNR staff should work directly with those affected to try to resolve the concerns as much as possible before deciding whether to pursue other options, which may include:

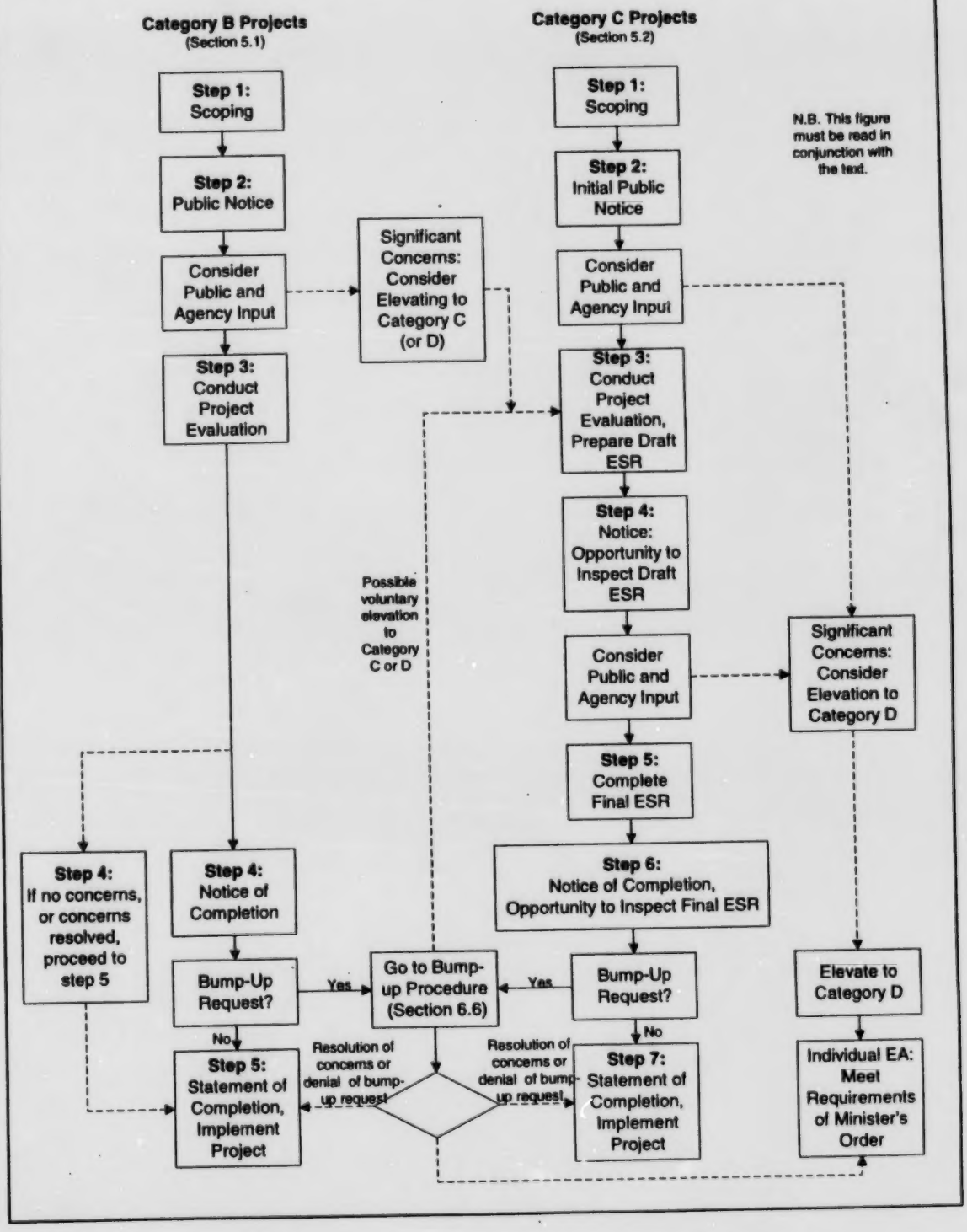
- Identifying new approaches to meeting the need that the project was intended to address.
- A decision not to proceed with the project.
- Elevation of the project to Category C or D.
- Alternative dispute resolution methods (refer to Appendix 8).

Step 3: Project Evaluation

MNR staff consider input received from the public notice, and continue the Category B process by collecting and documenting the following information:

- The purpose of the project, including the problem or opportunity being addressed.
- A complete project description, including the final design.
- The study area and the environment affected.
- Potential environmental effects (derived from the screening process, with additional information as required).
- Applicable MNR policies, procedures, manuals and guidelines (see Appendix 3), other required approvals (see Appendix 7), and their relevance to the project.
- Required mitigation, remedial and enhancement measures.
- Consideration of whether monitoring is required and, if so, a description of any monitoring requirements and commitments (see Section 5.3).
- A description of consultation conducted and issues raised, MNR's response to these issues, and any changes made to the project in response to public or agency input.

Figure 5. Project Evaluation and Consultation Processes for Category B and C Projects.


Category B Projects
(Section 5.1)
Step 1: Scoping
Step 2: Public Notice
Consider Public and Agency Input
Step 3: Conduct Project Evaluation
Step 4: If no concerns, or concerns resolved, proceed to step 5
Step 4: Notice of Completion
Bump-Up Request?
Yes
No
Step 5: Statement of Completion, Implement Project
Significant Concerns: Consider Elevating to Category C (or D)
Possible voluntary elevation to Category C or D
Category C Projects
(Section 5.2)
Step 1: Scoping
Step 2: Initial Public Notice
Consider Public and Agency Input
Step 3: Conduct Project Evaluation, Prepare Draft ESR
Step 4: Notice: Opportunity to Inspect Draft ESR
Consider Public and Agency Input
Step 5: Complete Final ESR
Step 6: Notice of Completion, Opportunity to Inspect Final ESR
Bump-Up Request?
Yes
No
Step 7: Statement of Completion, Implement Project
Go to Bump-up Procedure (Section 6.6)
Resolution of concerns or denial of bump-up request
Resolution of concerns or denial of bump-up request
Significant Concerns: Consider Elevation to Category D
Elevate to Category D
Individual EA: Meet Requirements of Minister's Order
N.B. This figure must be read in conjunction with the text.

Step 4: Notice of Completion

MNR will individually notify all persons and agencies who commented or asked to be notified of its decision on the project. This "Notice of Completion" will include the following information:

- A summary description of the project and any mitigation, remedial or enhancement measures, revised to reflect Step 3.
- A map or description of the location of the project.
- Confirmation that the requirements of the Class EA process for a Category B project have been met, subject to any consideration of a bump up request by the Minister of the Environment; that any mitigation or monitoring requirements will be undertaken; and that MNR intends to proceed.
- A description of the bump up provisions of the *EA Act*, and an indication of a 30-day period for bump up requests or other comments on the proposal.
- The name, address, telephone number, fax number and e-mail address of a contact person to whom questions or comments must be directed.
- Availability of the project file for inspection, its location and the hours within which it may be reviewed.

Note that if no concerns were raised, or if the concerns were resolved (e.g., through discussion with the individual or group, and/or through conditions of approval) MNR may proceed to step 5 without issuing this notice or awaiting the 30-day period.

Step 5: Statement of Completion, Implement Project

If no bump up requests are received during the 30-day period, or if a bump up request is resolved without elevation of the project to Category C or D or a requirement for an individual EA by the Minister of the Environment, the responsible MNR manager (the zone manager for a provincial park, or the district manager for a conservation reserve) will prepare a "Statement of Completion", and the project may proceed. The Statement of Completion will be placed on the project file and will also be sent to the Manager, Planning and Research Section of Ontario Parks. It will include:

- A brief description of the nature and location of the project.
- Certification that the project was evaluated as a Category B project in accordance with the requirements of this Class EA.
- Certification that no bump up request was received during the notification period, that any bump up requests received were withdrawn, or that any bump up requests were denied by the Minister of the Environment (see Section 6.6).
- The signature of the responsible MNR manager, and the date.

If a bump up request is received, the procedure described in Section 6.6 applies.

5.2 Category C Project Evaluation and Consultation Process

Notices
The Category C process includes three mandatory points of notification, and the preparation of an Environmental Study Report.

Category C projects, described in Section 4.1.3, may vary widely in their potential environmental effects and level of public interest. The requirements set out in this Class EA are a minimum.

All information described in the following steps will be placed on a project file, first opened during the screening process (Section 4.2), as part of the public record. The records of any future monitoring required as a result of the evaluation process will also be placed on the project file.

The process consists of seven steps, as illustrated in Figure 5.

Step 1: Scoping

MNR staff review the extent of planning and consultation previously conducted in support of the project (for example, through a management planning process). This information is combined with the results of the screening to determine the project evaluation and consultation steps that are remaining and must be completed through this Class EA.

Step 2: Initial Public Notice for Category C Projects

At a minimum, this will consist of a mailing to persons and agencies with a known interest, or to those persons and agencies MNR considers to have a potential interest, and a local newspaper advertisement, with an invitation to comment within 30 days. Note that news releases do not satisfy the notice requirements, that is, an advertisement is required. If the provincial park or conservation reserve is operating or otherwise has managed entry, this notice will also be clearly posted at the office and/or normal (or authorized) entry points. Where a high level of public interest is anticipated, the MNR manager may undertake other methods of consultation referred to in Appendix B, either as part of the initial consultation or in response to the level of interest generated by this notice.

This notice should include the following information:

- A title indicating the project name and location.
- A summary description of the project or alternatives, and any proposed mitigation measures.
- A map or description of the location of the project or alternatives and the study area, if appropriate.
- A summary description of previous MNR planning activities leading to the identification of the project, and a statement that MNR will either:
    - Conduct the complete project evaluation specified for a Category C project under this Class EA, or:
    - Conduct the remaining information gathering, evaluation and consultation required for a Category C project under this Class EA that has not already been conducted under a previous planning process.
- An invitation to provide comments on the proposed project, specifying the deadline, and to participate in the preparation of an ESR.
- An invitation to any additional consultation event(s) associated with the project, giving date, time and location
- A description of the *EA Act* provisions that enable interested parties to request the Minister of the Environment to bump up the project to an individual EA.
- The name, address, telephone number, fax number and e-mail address of a contact person to whom questions and requests for additional information must be directed, and to whom comments or requests to be added to the mailing list must be sent.

- A statement of the authority under which information is being collected from the public, and of that information's availability and confidentiality under the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

The comment period will be at least 30 days, and may be extended for more significant projects or to accommodate a high degree of public interest. MNR may also include supplementary information with the notice, which may include:

- More detailed information about the project, the environment affected and current knowledge about potential effects.
- Proposed criteria for the evaluation of the project and any alternatives.
- A project schedule, including an outline of additional proposed consultation.
- A questionnaire or comment sheet.

Where significant comments are received, MNR staff should work directly with those affected to resolve the concerns as much as possible before deciding whether to pursue other options, which may include:

- Identifying new approaches to meeting the need that the project was intended to resolve.
- A decision not to proceed with the project.
- Elevation of the project to Category D.
- Alternative dispute resolution.

MNR staff will refine the proposed approach based on input received. Further guidance on consultation and alternative dispute resolution may be found in Appendix 8.

Step3: Project Evaluation and Preparation of a Draft Environmental Study Report (ESR)

MNR staff will carry out the evaluation of the project and any additional consultation. A Draft ESR report will be prepared, based on the project evaluation and the results of consultation. The level of detail of Draft ESRs will vary depending on the complexity of the project, its environmental effects and the level of public and agency concern.

The Draft ESR will include:

- A description of what is to be accomplished by the project (the problem, opportunity or issue), and why.
- Confirmation of the project category.
- Review of the planning already undertaken in support of the project and the matters remaining to be addressed in the project evaluation, based on the relevant approved management direction or other policy document or approvals (per Step 1).
- A description of project alternatives, where relevant.
- A description of the project study area, including existing land uses and valued ecosystem components and special features that could be affected.
- Identification of potential environmental effects of the project and any alternatives, focusing on the potential effects identified in the screening.
- A description of the project evaluation process conducted, including the comparison of alternatives where appropriate (see Appendix 5).
- Details of the proposed project including its location, the basic technologies to be used, and the project design. This may include a site plan, where appropriate.
- Applicable MNR policies, procedures, manuals and guidelines (see Appendix 3), other required

approvals (see Appendix 7), and their relevance to the project.
- The environmental effects of the project and their significance, including discussion of any benefits that may offset negative effects. Assessing the significance of environmental effects is discussed in Appendix 5.
- Consideration of the implications of not proceeding with the project (the "no-go alternative").
- Commitments to any proposed mitigation, remedial or enhancement measures.
- Consideration of whether monitoring is required, and, if so, commitments to monitoring the project and the future availability of monitoring records (See Section 5.3).

Appendices to the Draft ESR should include:

- Documentation of the screening evaluation.
- A description of the public consultation process, a synopsis of the issues raised, and MNR's response to those issues.
- Additional summaries or details of the environmental evaluations conducted and their findings (technical materials may be provided in supplementary documents).

Step 4: Notice of Opportunity to Inspect the Draft Environmental Study Report

MNR will individually notify everyone on the current mailing list. Where there is a high level of interest or the project was substantially changed during the process, notice will also be provided in a local newspaper advertisement. The Draft ESR may be sent individually to interested parties and to others who request it.

Depending on the level of public and agency interest and the significance of the project and its potential effects, the MNR manager (the zone manager for a provincial park, or the district manager for a conservation reserve) may add other consultation events as discussed in Appendix 8. Normally the deadline for comments will be 30 days, although this may be extended in situations which are known to be more complex. If the level of interest in the project is low, the manager may reduce the deadline to 14 days.

This notice will include:

- A summary of the findings and conclusions of the Draft ESR.
- An invitation to inspect the Draft ESR at specified public locations.
- A request for comments on the Draft ESR and its findings, specifying the deadline.
- An invitation to any additional consultation events to be held in connection with the project.
- Contact person information, as in the initial notice (Step 2).
- Notice that MNR intends to proceed with the project, and that a Final ESR will be released for public inspection.
- Reiteration of the bump up provisions of the *EA Act*, and *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* provisions.

Step 5: Completion of the Final Environmental Study Report

MNR staff will consider agency and public comments in refining the Draft ESR, and in deciding whether to proceed with the project. The required contents of the Final ESR are the same as for the Draft.

Step 6: Notice of Completion, Opportunity to Inspect the Final Environmental Study Report

MNR will notify everyone on the current project mailing list. MNR may send the Final ESR individually to interested parties and to others who request it. This notice will include:

- Certification that the Final ESR has been completed, in accordance with the process for a Category C project under this Class EA.
- Certification that, subject to any consideration of a bump up request by the Minister of the Environment, the project evaluation is considered to have met the requirements of the *EA Act* provided it is implemented as described, including any commitments to mitigation and monitoring.
- Description of the project and its location (shown on a map, where appropriate).
- Description of the bump up provisions of the *EA Act*, and indication of a 30-day period for bump up requests or other comments.
- The name, address, telephone number, fax number and e-mail address of a contact person at MNR to whom questions or requests for a more complete project description must be directed, and comments must be sent.

Where the project is complex or there is a high level of interest, MNR staff may decide to conduct additional consultation or notices in connection with the Final ESR.

Step 7: Statement of Completion, Implement Project

If no bump up requests are received during the 30-day period, or if a bump up request is resolved without elevation of the project to Category D or a requirement for an individual EA by the Minister of the Environment, the responsible MNR manager (the zone manager for a provincial park, or the district manager for a conservation reserve) will prepare a "Statement of Completion" on the project file and the project may proceed. The Statement of Completion will be as described in Section 5.1, except that it will refer to a Category C rather than a Category B project. The Statement of Completion will be placed on the project file and will also be sent to the Manager, Planning and Research Section of Ontario Parks.

If a bump up request is received, the procedure described in Section 6.6 of this Class EA applies.

5.3 Monitoring of Projects

Monitoring and follow-up during both the construction and operation phases of projects are important to the achievement of the purpose of this Class EA as described in Section 1. Monitoring enables MNR to assess whether predictions of environmental effects are valid, and to confirm the effectiveness of mitigation measures. Where unintended effects occur, further action can be taken to reverse or minimize them wherever possible. Monitoring and follow-up enable a learning process to occur, so that lessons learned can be applied in the planning of future projects, thereby improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the Class EA process.

Potential requirements for monitoring should be considered throughout the planning and implementation of all projects. How much monitoring is required will depend on the project. Small, low intensity projects may only require informal monitoring. Projects that employ mitigation measures to solve an anticipated problem or a negative effect, monitoring may be required. Larger scale projects using innovative or untested techniques and mitigation measures may require sophisticated monitoring approaches before, during and after project implementation.

Category B project files and Category C ESRs will include a statement that the need for monitoring was considered in the project evaluation (refer to sample template in Appendix 9). If no monitoring is required, reasons should be provided. Where monitoring is required, a monitoring and follow-up program should be described, such as:

- *Purpose:* why monitoring is being done, the potential effect(s).
- *Acceptable Outcomes:* the effects predicted and the range of acceptable outcomes.
- *Monitoring Methods:* the protocols to be used (e.g., techniques, equipment, measurements, duration, frequency, etc.).
- *Results:* a description and assessment of the results with respect to the acceptable outcomes
- *Remedial Action:* additional actions that may be required to mitigate a problem, including any related monitoring.

If a project is undertaken by or in cooperation with a partner (see Section 3.4), responsibilities for monitoring and any required mitigation and remediation should be clearly identified. Monitoring records will be maintained on the project file.

6. Class EA Administrative Practices and Procedures

6.1 Monitoring the Implementation of this Class EA

The purpose of monitoring the implementation of this Class EA is to ensure that it is fulfilling its stated purpose and to identify opportunities for improvement that would enhance its effectiveness.

To assist in monitoring progress and experience arising from the implementation of this Class EA, MNR will:

- Retain copies of Category B and C project files at the provincial park (where park offices exist), and at the relevant district or zone office.
- Retain Statements of Completion at the Planning and Research Section, Ontario Parks.
- Prepare an annual report identifying, for that year:
  - (i) The numbers and types of Category C and D projects completed and under way.
  - (ii) Bump up requests and their resolution.
  - (iii) Changes to MNR policies, procedures, manuals or guidelines that were implemented during the year that support the implementation of the Class EA.
  - (iv) Aspects of the Class EA that are working well.
  - (v) Any provisions of the Class EA that do not support its stated purpose, or that would benefit from improvement.
  - (vi) Where appropriate, proposed changes that should be incorporated into an amendment to the Class EA as described in Section 6.2.

The annual report would be prepared by Ontario Parks Planning and Research Section, and forwarded to MOE, and would be available to interested members of the public, stakeholders and agencies.

6.2 Amendments to This Class EA

MNR or any other party may bring proposals for amendments to the Class EA, in writing, to the attention of the Director of the Environmental Assessment and Approvals Branch (EEA Branch), MOE (for minor amendments-see below) or the Minister of the Environment (for major amendments). An outside party would consult with the Managing Director, Ontario Parks before submitting a proposed amendment, and would also provide the Managing Director with a copy of the proposed amendment. Proposals must set out the specific concern or issue being addressed, the reason for the proposal and the proposed amendment.

Upon approval, minor and major amendments would be appended to this Class EA, or consolidated into the written text. A master copy of the Class EA will be held at Ontario Parks main office, and a consolidation will be provided on an internet web page.

The Minister of the Environment or delegate may require that consideration of a major or minor amendment be deferred for consideration as part of the review that would take place in anticipation of the expiry of the Class EA, as described in Section 6.3.

Minor amendments to this Class EA will be approved through an abbreviated process. Major amendments require a public notice and an opportunity for a bump up.

Amendments will be treated as minor or major, as described below.

6.2.1 Minor Amendments

Minor amendments would include administrative corrections and clarifications, minor updates (such as updating references to policies and guidelines), and changes to procedures that, in the opinion of the Director of the EAA Branch, MOE do not affect the intent of the Class EA.

Requests for minor amendments may be made by MNR or by any other party. The Director of the EEAB would consult with MNR and reach an opinion as to whether the proposed amendment is frivolous or vexatious, and whether it is minor. If the proposed amendment passes these tests and, in the opinion of the Director of the EAA Branch in consultation with MNR, the proposed amendment is reasonable and necessary, it may be approved without public consultation.

6.2.2 Major Amendments

Major amendments would include changes that, in the opinion of the Director of the EAA Branch, MOE, may have a significant impact on how the Class EA is carried out. They could include changes to:

- The range of projects included within the class or the allocation of projects to categories.
- The essential elements of the screening or Category B or C processes, and the administrative provisions found in this section of the Class EA.
- Mandatory public notice procedures or timelines.

A request for a major amendment may be made by MNR or any other party. The Director of the EEAB, MOE would consult with MNR and reach an opinion as to whether the proposed amendment is frivolous or vexatious, and whether it is major. If the proposed amendment passes these tests and, in the opinion of the Director of the EAAB in consultation with MNR, the proposed amendment is reasonable and necessary, it will be posted by MOE on the Environmental Registry for a period of at least 30 days. Interested parties will be invited to submit comments to the Director of the EAA Branch, MOE, copied at the same time to MNR. In some circumstances, additional public consultation activities may be carried out.

Based on any comments received and on further consultation with MNR, the Minister of the Environment or delegate would approve or deny approval for the amendment, with or without conditions, within 60 days after the deadline for comments. The decision would be provided to those who submitted comments or indicated interest in the amendment, and it would be posted on the Environmental Registry.

6.3 Review and Renewal of the Class EA

This Class EA will be reviewed every ten years from the date of its initial approval. At least one year before this Class EA expires, MNR will provide a written submission to the Minister of the Environment, providing a rationale for one of the following options:

- Extending the approval for the Class EA for a specified period, without amendment.
- Extending the approval for the Class EA, subject to one or more amendments that would be reviewed in accordance with the process described in Section 7.2.
- Preparation of a new Class EA .

If MNR requests an extension without amendment to the Class EA, the Minister of the Environment will consider the request and the rationale in consultation with MNR, and will decide either to proceed with notice and review of the recommendation, or require MNR to proceed with the second or third option described above.

Prior to extending the term of approval without amendment, the Minister will notify agencies and interested parties and place a notice on the Environmental Registry inviting comments within a minimum of 30 days. On review of the comments received, a decision will be made within 45 days of the expiry of the 30-day notification period either to extend the term of approval for a specified period, or, again, to require MNR to proceed with the second or third options described above. The Minister will provide notice of the decision to agencies and interested parties, and will post it on the Environmental Registry.

If it is likely that this Class EA will expire before any required amendments-or a new Class EA-can be approved, the Minister of the Environment may temporarily extend the approval of this Class EA, at the written request of MNR, to allow the required process to be completed. In these circumstances no public or agency consultation is required. The Minister would post such a decision on the Environmental Registry.

6.4 Emergency Provisions

Situations may arise in provincial parks and conservation reserves where there is an imminent threat to human life, property, public services, or the environment. Examples of emergencies include sudden flooding, erosion or collapse of a structure, and chemical spills (emergency measures to fight forest fires are excluded from this Class EA, and will continue to be covered by Declaration Order MNR-1). In these circumstances, it may be necessary to proceed with actions that would otherwise be subject to planning processes under this Class EA. Whenever this occurs, MNR will provide notice to the Director of the EAA Branch, MOE within 30 days of the commencement of the emergency, containing the following information:

- The location and nature of the emergency.
- The environmental effects of the emergency.
- Actions taken to resolve the emergency and the environmental effects of the actions.
- The effectiveness of the actions.
- Anticipated future remedial works and monitoring, if any.

6.5 Transitional Provisions

Planning and implementation of some MNR projects that would be subject to this Class EA may be under way on the date of approval of this Class EA. The following provisions are intended to ensure a smooth transition between previous requirements and the new Class EA requirements.

- Where a project is the subject of an ongoing implementation plan, or a process under a Declaration Order that would be replaced by this Class EA, that process may continue if a public notice for that process has already been issued on the date this Class EA is approved. The requirements of this Class EA should be applied to the rest of the process wherever possible, but meeting the Class EA will not be a formal requirement.
- Projects not specified in Appendix 2 and that are not subject to former Declaration Orders or implementation plan requirements, and for which program commitments have already been made, may proceed without further planning requirements, provided the project is commenced within two years of the date of approval of this Class EA. If implementation is to be initiated after this date, the project will be subject to screening and any additional project evaluation requirements.
- If no public notice for an implementation plan or a process under a Declaration Order has been issued at the date of approval of this Class EA, or if the project is not under construction within two years of the date of approval of this Class EA, the Class EA planning process will apply.
- Where some of the requirements of a project evaluation under this Class EA have been met through another process as described in Sections 2.2 and 3.5, and the approved document is more than five years old when the first notice for the evaluation process is issued, the project file or ESR will include a review of

the continuing validity of the need for the project and any planning steps that were conducted under the earlier process. Earlier steps will be revisited where circumstances have changed in a way that affects the appropriateness or environmental effects of the project. Where there is a conflict with planning guidelines related to project implementation, the Class EA will apply. MNR intends to update planning guidelines upon approval of the Class EA..

- Where a continuing program (such as fish or wildlife management) that has already been approved under an implementation plan, or under a Declaration Order that would be superseded by this Class EA, is already under way, the required Class EA process to approve the project will be completed within five years of the date of approval of this Class EA.

6.6 Bump Up (Part II Order) Provisions

If persons or agencies are not satisfied with a project evaluation process, they can request the Minister of the Environment to order a bump up. If this is approved, the project would be evaluated under an individual EA.

This Class EA provides an opportunity for agencies and interested parties to provide input to MNR's decision making for Category B and C projects. The bump up provisions described in this section are not intended to apply during the screening or project evaluation processes. As illustrated in Figure 5, they may be used after the posting of a Notice of Completion if there is concern that a project evaluation under this Class EA is insufficient to address public concerns, or the characteristics and effects of the project.

Where a person or agency considers that a project is not receiving adequate consideration under the Class EA during a project evaluation process and should be assigned to Category C or Category D, the concerns that lead to this conclusion should first be provided to MNR in writing and discussed with the MNR staff involved. The concerns should be raised as early as possible, so that they can be considered and resolved, if possible, before substantial time and resources have been committed. MNR may volunteer to reassign the project to Category D (or Category C if it is a Category B project), or may decide to continue with its planning process under the category originally assigned.

If these concerns are still not resolved, stakeholders have an opportunity to make a formal request to the Minister of the Environment for a bump up within 30 days of the release of a Notice of Completion for a Category B project, or release of the ESR and Notice of Completion for a Category C project. Sections 6.7 and 6.8 also allow bump up requests to be submitted when a project is to be implemented after the five-year period for which a project is approved, or when an amendment to a Category B project file or an ESR is proposed. Notices of all of these actions must specify that there is an opportunity to request a bump up. The process is described below and illustrated in Figure 6.

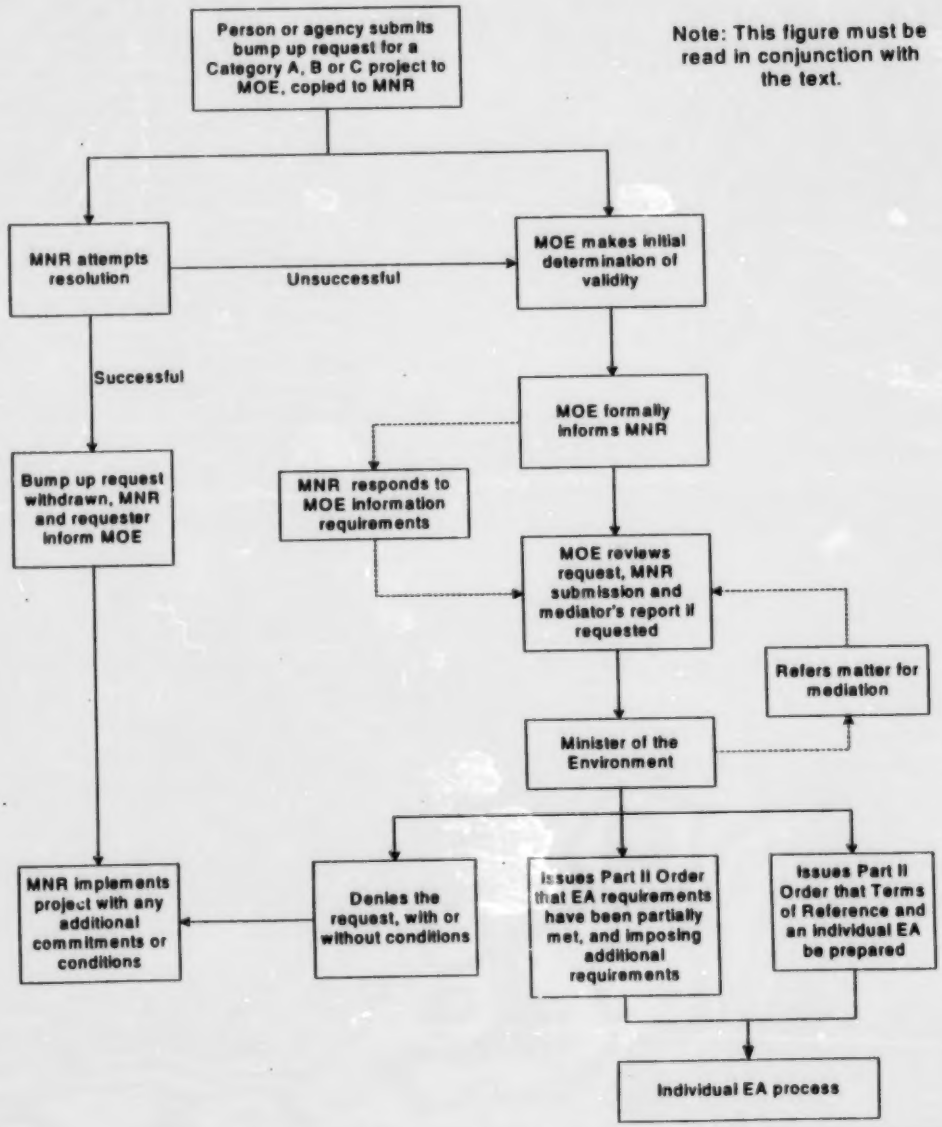
6.6.1 Submission of Request for a Bump Up

The concerned party submits a request for a bump up to the Minister of the Environment within the 30-day period, copying it to the contact person specified in the notice. Requests received after the expiry of the 30-day period will not be considered. The submission should discuss the reasons for the request, such as:

- The nature of any specific concerns that remain unresolved, and actions other than a bump up that might resolve these concerns.
- The adequacy of the planning process conducted under this Class EA.
- The availability of more appropriate alternatives to the proposed project.
- The adequacy of the agency and public consultation process, and MNR's response to concerns and submissions.
- The involvement of the person or agency making the request in the Class EA process, and details of any discussions held with MNR.

- Why the project would be more appropriately considered under the Category C or D (an individual EA) process and the tangible benefits that would result.
- How the project meets the criteria for consideration of a project under Category C or Category D provided in Table 4.2.

Figure 6. Bump up Procedure


Person or agency submits bump up request for a Category A, B or C project to MOE, copied to MNR
Note: This figure must be read in conjunction with the text.
MNR attempts resolution
Unsuccessful
MOE makes initial determination of validity
Successful
MOE formally informs MNR
Bump up request withdrawn, MNR and requester inform MOE
MNR responds to MOE information requirements
MOE reviews request, MNR submission and mediator's report if requested
Refers matter for mediation
Minister of the Environment
MNR implements project with any additional commitments or conditions
Denies the request, with or without conditions
Issues Part II Order that EA requirements have been partially met, and imposing additional requirements
Issues Part II Order that Terms of Reference and an individual EA be prepared
Individual EA process

6.6.2 Attempt Early Resolution

MNR will attempt to initiate or resume discussions with the parties concerned and may call for alternate forms of dispute resolution. If there is potential for progress resolving the concerns raised, MNR and the requesters may request MOE in writing to extend the 30-day notice period (in other words, request a "time out") so that further discussion may take place prior to a final decision. If approved, MNR and the requester(s) will advise MOE in writing of the outcome of the discussions and whether the bump up request is confirmed or withdrawn.

6.6.3 MOE Consideration of the Request

Upon receipt or confirmation of a bump up request, the Minister of the Environment or delegate will make an initial determination of the validity of the request. Requests that, in the Minister or delegate's opinion, are frivolous, vexatious or submitted for the purpose of delaying the project or which contain insufficient information may be denied by the Minister.

- If MOE determines that the request is valid, it will formally advise MNR that the request has been received within 7 days of the end of the notice period for the Notice of Completion. MNR may make a submission to the Minister or delegate in response to the request within 15 days of the formal notification from MOE. MNR may volunteer to elevate the project to Category C (where this has been requested) or D, and advise the Minister of the Environment accordingly in writing at any time before the Minister's decision. On receiving such advice, MOE would terminate its consideration of the bump up request.
- The request will be considered together with any submission from MNR by the EAA Branch of the MOE, which may request additional information from MNR.
- The EAA Branch must prepare a report to the Minister of the Environment containing a recommendation within 45 days of the end of the notice period for the Statement of Completion orwithin 30 days of receiving a submission from MNR, additional information from MNR or a mediator's report (see Section 6.6.4), whichever is latest.

6.6.4 Minister's Decision

The Minister of the Environment will make a determination on the request within 21 days of receiving the recommendation from the EAA Branch. In making a decision the Minister will consider the matters set out in Section 16.(4) of the *EA Act*.

The Minister may:

- Deny the request, with or without conditions, in which case the responsible MNR manager would file a Statement of Completion and implement the project.
- Refer the matter to mediation under Section 16(6) of the *EA Act*, in which case a final decision would be deferred until the mediation report is received.
- Issue an order under Part II of the *EA Act*. The order may:
  - (i) Set out directions for the preparation of Terms of Reference, which would define the scope of the required individual EA (*EA Act*, Section 16.(2)1);
  - (ii) Declare that the Class EA documentation meets some of the requirements for an individual EA, and order MNR to meet the remaining requirements. (*EA Act*, Section 16. (2) 2). The Minister may allow a part of the project to proceed before MNR meets any additional requirements if it is not subject to the bump up request, or if, in the Minister's opinion, it has been evaluated appropriately under this Class EA.

6.7 Duration of Project Approvals

MNR may proceed with a project that has met the requirements of this Class EA within five years of filing a Statement of Completion. If MNR wishes to proceed with a Category B or C project after that time, it must provide a notice of intention to proceed with a project for which EA approval has expired. The notice will describe the project, its category and the date of filing of the Statement of Completion, and the basis on which approval to proceed is requested, and provide contact information and information regarding the opportunity to request a bump up. Bump up requests would be sent to both the contact person named in the notice and the MOE. A sample notice is provided in Appendix 9.

Project approvals under this Class EA are valid for five years, and must be renewed if they are to be implemented after that time.

The notice would be published in a local newspaper, and would also be sent to government agencies and potentially interested parties, including those who expressed interest during the original Class EA process (where possible, given the time lapse). A minimum 30-day response period would be provided. If a bump up request is received, the process described in Section 6.6 will be followed. In addition to the requirements in Section 6.6, any bump up request should refer to changes in circumstances that have occurred since the project was originally approved that justify a project evaluation under Category C or D. The responsible MNR manager may elect to respond to the bump up request by modifying the project file or ESR as described in Section 6.8.

If no bump up request is received within the notice period, MNR may proceed with the project.

6.8 Modifications to Project Files and Environmental Study Reports (ESRs)

MNR may wish to modify a Category B or C project where the required process has been completed under this Class EA, before the five-year project approval expires. Where the responsible MNR manager considers the modification to be minor because the project location, footprint or scale is unchanged and there would be no significant increase in negative environmental effects or the level of concern, the project may proceed. Where the location, footprint or scale of the project is changed, or there is an increase in potential negative environmental effects or the potential level of concern, MNR staff will undertake any additional required evaluation. A Revised Notice of Completion will be posted in a local newspaper, and mailed to all who earlier expressed interest in the project. Where the modification raises new issues that MNR believes may be of interest to agencies, groups or individuals who did not previously express interest, these additional parties will be contacted.

The Revised Notice of Completion will describe the proposed change, the reasons for the change, and any changes to the predicted environmental effects. The response period for this notice will be a minimum of 30 days. It will provide contact information and information regarding the opportunity to submit a bump up request. Other consultation activities may be initiated. An example of a Revised Notice of Completion is provided in Appendix 9.

If no bump up request is received within the notice period, or if the bump up request is denied or successfully resolved, the responsible manager will file a Revised Statement of Completion in accordance with Section 5.1.or 5.2 as appropriate, with any necessary modifications, and the project may proceed. Where a bump up request is received, the process described in Section 6.6 will be followed.

Appendix 1: Glossary of Terms and Acronyms

Activity: An operation that does not involve construction of a permanent structure or feature, but which has potential environmental effects. See examples in Appendix 2. See also "project".

Approved Land Use Strategy: The *Ontario's Living Legacy Land Use Strategy (July 1999)*, any other regional land use strategy approved by the Ontario Government, or any land use strategy approved by the Minister of Natural Resources under the *Public Lands Act*.

Bump up: A decision by the Minister of the Environment to require that a project or activity that would normally be considered under a Class EA to be subject to an individual environmental assessment. Formally known as a "Part II Order".

CEAA: Canadian Environmental Assessment Act.

Class Environmental Assessment: An environmental assessment approved under Part II.1 of the *EA Act* for a class or group of projects.

Cumulative Environmental Effect: The total effect on the environment from two or more projects. Sometimes the effects of more than one project can accumulate so that they reach a critical threshold, or they can be compounded so that they create an effect that is greater than the sum of the parts.

Declaration Order: An Order by the Minister of the Environment under Section 3.2 of the *EA Act*, removing the need for a proponent to comply with the full requirements of the Act. It may exempt a proponent or an undertaking entirely from the Act, or it may qualify the exemption with the imposition of conditions of approval. References to declaration orders in this Class EA include exemptions.

Designation: A decision by the Minister of the Environment to require an individual environmental assessment for a project or activity which is currently either not subject to the *EA Act* (under Section 3 of the Act) or for which an exemption or Part II Declaration Order has been granted under Section 3.2.

Disposition: This involves the disposition by the MNR of certain or all rights to Crown resources through such means as a permits, licences, approvals, permissions, consents, land use permits, leases, licence of occupation, or sale.

EAA Branch: The Environmental Assessment and Approvals Branch of the Ontario Ministry of the Environment.

Environment: As defined under Section 1 of the *EA Act*, "environment" includes the natural environment as well as the social, economic and cultural conditions that influence individuals and communities and the interconnections between them.

Environmental Assessment: The identification and evaluation of the effects of an undertaking and (where appropriate) its alternatives on the environment, as contained in a document prepared in accordance with the Ontario and/or Canadian Environmental Assessment Acts.

Environmental Effect: Any change to the environment, positive or negative, that would occur as a result of a project, or any effect on the project that may be caused by the environment.

Environmental Registry: An electronic database accessible via the Internet. The Registry was established by the *Environmental Bill of Rights* to provide information about environmental decision making to the public.

Environmental Study Report (ESR): The report that formally documents a project evaluation process carried out for a category C project. under this Class EA.

Exemption Order: See Declaration Order

Footprint: The area occupied by a project.

Harmonize: In this Class EA, harmonize means that one or more processes may be carried out as a single process in a way that meets the standards and requirements set out in each process.

Individual Environmental Assessment: An environmental assessment that is subject to the requirements set out in Part II of the *EA Act*.

Management Direction: Includes an interim management statement (IMS) for a provincial park, a statement of conservation interest (SCI) for a conservation reserve, or a management plan for a park or a conservation reserve. As described in Appendix 4 (part 4.3), these planning documents provide appropriate direction in keeping with their purpose and different information standards used in their preparation.

Mitigation: The means by which projects can be modified to minimize or eliminate potential negative effects. Can include off-site measures that achieve the same objective.

Net Environmental Effect: The change to the environment that would occur, following the application of proposed mitigation or enhancement measures. The same as "residual environmental effect".

Nonconforming Use: Use that does not conform to *Ontario Parks Planning and Management Policies*, MNR's conservation reserves policies, or the general permitted use policies in the *Ontario's Living Legacy Land Use Strategy, July 1999*, or other approved Land Use Strategy. There are two basic types:

- Most are uses existing at the time of the provincial park or conservation reserve's designation. Such uses are identified as nonconforming in the park or conservation reserve management plan, and no expansion of those uses will be permitted. However, they may be allowed to continue until lands are acquired, the uses disappear through normal processes, or equal opportunities for such uses are found elsewhere.
- Some are continuing nonconforming uses, recognized as not having any prospect of ending any time in the foreseeable future.

Project: A development that involves construction of a permanent structure or a feature such as a road, trail or engineered facility. For the purpose of this Class EA, the term "project" also includes "activity" as defined above.

Project Evaluation: A process required to meet the requirements of this Class EA for category B and category C projects.

Project File: A file placed on the public record that provides the formal documentation for a project evaluation carried out under this Class EA for a category B project.

Protected Area: For the purposes of the Class EA, "protected area" refers to a provincial park or conservation reserve, either existing in regulation, or recommended through an approved land use strategy.

Residual Environmental Effect: See net environmental effect.

Resource Stewardship The careful and responsible management of a public resource.

Species at Risk: The following categories of species listed by MNR on its Index List of Vulnerable, Threatened, Endangered, Extirpated or Extinct Species of Ontario, as amended from time to time.

Undertaking: An enterprise or activity or a proposal, plan or program that is subject to the *EA Act*.

Vulnerable, Threatened, and Endangered Species: See "Species at Risk".

Appendix 2: List of Projects

This appendix lists a wide array of projects and activities that are carried out in provincial parks and conservation reserves. Implementation of projects is subject to application of relevant legislation, policies, procedures, guidelines, manuals and standards. Readers should consult the accompanying footnotes and relevant sections in this Class EA. Projects that are not listed and are also the subject of this Class EA will be screened to determine the appropriate category (that is, using the screening process in Section 4.2).

Symbols:

✓ the subject of this Class EA in connection with Sections 4 and 5
x not the subject to this Class EA

ID	Projects	Category A	Screen for Category [7]	Notes[4] (see footnotes at end of table)
	Section 3.1.1 Establishing, amending, and rescinding boundary regulations for a provincial park or conservation reserve[5]			
1	Establish a boundary to create a new park or reserve[1]	✓	✓	Category A with a public notice if project is in accordance with an approved Land Use Strategy, the appropriate type of management direction, or a public consultation process; otherwise, Category B/C/D. OLL areas are excluded.[6]
2	**Amend a boundary**			
A	Minor[1]	✓		(2, 6, 17)
B	Major	✓	✓	Category A if project is in accordance with an approved Land Use Strategy, the appropriate type of management direction, or a public consultation process; otherwise, Category B/C/D.[3, 6]
C	To enable disposition of Crown lands for a transportation corridor (normally only applies to major, exclusive use projects such as provincial highways)	✓	✓	Category A if the proponent certifies compliance with the relevant provincial or federal EA process[23]; otherwise Category B/C/D.[22]
3	Rescind a boundary[1]	✓	✓	Category A if project conforms with an approved Land Use Strategy or management direction; otherwise Category B/C/D.

ID	Projects	Category A	Screen for Category[7]	Notes[4] (see footnotes at end of table)
	Section 3.1.2 Acquiring land for a provincial park or conservation reserve[5]			
5	Buy or exchange land, accept donated land, or obtain partial tenure of land (lease, easement, etc.)[1]	✓		
	Section 3.1.3 Managing a provincial park or conservation reserve[5]			
6	**Resource stewardship**[11, 16]			
7	**Fish & Wildlife Management**			
8	Manage or control an animal population			
A	▪ Minor[1]	✓		(10, 17)
B	▪ Major		✓	(9, 10)
9	Control nuisance animals	✓		
10	Control rabid animals or rabies[1]	X	X	Subject to Declaration Order MNR-62.
11	Control invasive fish and wildlife species[1]	✓	✓	Category A if project conforms with an approved management direction or MNR policy for management of the species; otherwise, Category B/C/D.[9]
12	Stock fish -- new waters		✓	(9, 19)
13	Stock fish -- supplemental[1]	✓		(19)
14	Construct a fishway		✓	(11, 16)
15	Restore fisheries through water body reclamation	X	X	Individual EAs or requests for declaration orders will be prepared in each case.
16	**Landform & Vegetation Management**			
17	Maintain or restore natural environments[1]		✓	Category B/C/D. See Development section for grade alteration.[9]
18	Undertake prescribed burning and managed natural fire[1]	✓	✓	Category A if project conforms with an approved management direction or an approved MNR fire plan; otherwise, screen for Category C/D.[9]

ID	Projects	Category A	Screen for Category[7]	Notes[4] (see footnotes at end of table)
19	Undertake forest fire protection and operations[(1)]	x	x	Subject to Declaration Order MNR-1.
20	Control insects and forest diseases		✓	[(9)]
21	Control invasive vegetation and insect species[(1)]	✓	✓	Category A if project conforms with an approved management direction or MNR policy for management of the species; otherwise, Category B/C/D.[(9)]
22	Manage forests in the recreation-utilization zone of Algonquin Provincial Park	x	x	Subject to Class EA for Timber Management on Crown Lands.
23	**Cultural Resources Management**			
24	Maintain or restore archaeological, historical, or cultural resources-minor[(1)]	✓		[(9, 11)]
25	Restore or reconstruct archaeological, historical, or cultural resources-major		✓	Considered as development.[(11)]
26	Conduct historically authentic activities	✓		
27	**Water & Shoreline Management**			
28	Build dam, weir, dike or install clay or other impervious liner (not part of a hydro project)		✓	May have implications related to water level management-see Resource Stewardship listing and refer to.[(20, 24)]
29	Control erosion or stabilize shoreline or bank		✓	
30	Dredge or fill below high water mark		✓	May include areas adjacent to a watercourse where siltation may be a potential problem. May also include ongoing efforts to maintain navigation.[(9, 11, 15, 16)]
31	Manage water levels[(1)]	✓	✓	Category A if project conforms with an approved management direction or other public plan concerning management of water levels; otherwise, Category B/C/D.[(9)]
32	**Other resource stewardship projects**	✓	✓	Screen to determine Category A/B/C/D.
33	**Development & Related Operations**[(11, 15, 16)]			
34	**Beaches** (natural or human made)			
35	Develop a new beach or expand a beach		✓	
36	Replenish an existing beach	✓	✓	Category A if restricted to above high water mark; otherwise, Category B/C/D.[(9)]
37	Maintain existing beaches (raking, etc.)	✓		

ID	Projects	Category A	Screen for Category[7]	Notes[4] (see footnotes at end of table)
38	**Boat Launch**			
39	Develop a new launch		✓	
40	Maintain, repair or replace an existing launch (same size and location)	✓		
41	**Building or Structure**			
42	Minor development	✓		(12, 17, 25)
43	Major development		✓	(12)
44	Maintain and operate lock or other waterway structure to enable waterway travel	✓		
45	**Campground/Campsites**			
46	Develop a new campground		✓	(13)
47	Maintain campground	✓		
48	Establish and maintain back-country sites (e.g., canoe-in, hike-in, boat-in, fly-in sites)	✓		(25)
49	**Day Use Area**			
50	Develop new area		✓	
51	Maintain area	✓		
52	Develop and maintain a playground	✓		
53	**Dock**			
54	Minor development	✓		Floating dock.
55	Major development		✓	Permanent installation.
56	Maintain docks	✓		
57	**Road, Bridge, Parking for Vehicular Traffic**			
58	Develop new road, bridge, or parking area		✓	Includes increase in capacity or improvement of design standard of existing facility.
59	Maintain or resurface existing road, bridge or parking area	✓		No change in capacity or design standard. Includes minor work on corners to ensure safety.
60	Develop and maintain forest access road or water crossing[(1)]			See Section 3.5.1.
A	▪ In recommended parks, reserves and regulated reserves	✓		Category A as these must meet the requirements of the Class EA for Timber Management.

ID	Projects	Category A	Screen for Category B	Notes[4] (see footnotes at end of table)
B	▪ In regulated parks	✓		Category A as these must meet the requirements of the Class EA for Timber Management.
61	Develop and maintain roads and other facilities associated with forest management in the recreation-utilization zone of Algonquin Provincial Park	X	X	Subject to Class EA for Timber Management on Crown Lands and the park management plan.
62	Develop and maintain transportation or utility corridor through a park or reserve (non-MNR proponent)	X	X	Subject to the relevant provincial or federal EA process.[22, 23] See Section 3.5.2.
63	**Landscaping**			
64	Alter grade above high water mark	✓	✓	Category A if required to implement a Category A project; otherwise Category B/C/D.
65	Cut, mow, plant, spray, etc. vegetation (for groundskeeping, right of way maintenance, hazard removal, etc.)	✓		
66	Install fence or other barrier[1]	✓		
67	**Private Recreation Camp or Cottage**[1]			
68	Maintain, improve (same capacity), or remove[1]	✓		Conditions administered through issuance of work permit and/or Land Use Permit or Lease.
69	**Commercial Tourism Accommodation**			**Examples:** main base or outpost camp, youth camp, etc.
70	Maintain or improve (same capacity)[1]	✓		
71	Develop new facility or expand		✓	
72	**Intensive Recreational Facility**			**Example:** swimming pool.
73	Maintain or improve (same capacity)[1]	✓		
74	Develop new facility or expand		✓	
75	**Trail, Portage, Boardwalk, Viewing Tower, Platform, Blind**			
76	Minor development and all maintenance	✓		(14, 17, 25)
77	Major development		✓	(14)
78	**Sign or outdoor display**[1]	✓		

ID	Projects	Category A	Screen for Category ?	Notes[4] (see footnotes at end of table)
79	**Services for in-park or reserve use**			**Examples:** water treatment and distribution, sewage collection and treatment, telecommunications and electric distribution services.
80	Minor development and maintenance	✓		(8, 17, 18)
81	Major development, upgrading		✓	(8, 18)
82	Electrify existing car campsites	✓		
83	Develop electric generation facility and associated facilities for in-park or reserve consumption (solar, wind, hydro, generator, etc.)		✓	If hydro project, one process and report to address this Class EA and MNR *Water Power Program Guidelines* project information package.[24]
84	**Other development projects not listed**	✓	✓	Screen to determine Category A/B/C/D.
85	**General Operations** (15, 16)			
86	Provide visitor programs and services[1]	✓		
87	Conduct research[1]	x	x	Exempted by *EA Act* General Regulation, section 11.
88	Maintain facilities[1]	✓		(8, 11, 13)
89	Operate and retire facilities[1]	✓		(20, 21)
90	**Land Dispositions**[26]			**Examples:** licence of occupation, land use permit, lease, easement or boat cache.
91	Grant a new disposition	✓	✓	Category A if project conforms with the appropriate type of management direction; otherwise Category B/C/D.[10]
92	Renew or amend an existing disposition[1]	✓	✓	Category A if specifically permitted by an approved Land Use Strategy, other public review process, or the appropriate type of management direction; otherwise Category B/C/D.
93	Issue a work permit	✓		
94	**Resource Disposition**[26]			**Examples:** bait fishing, commercial fishing, trapping & trap cabin, wild rice harvesting.
95	Issue a licence or permit for commercial use of resource	✓	✓	Category A if project conforms with the appropriate type of management direction; otherwise Category B/C/D.[10]
96	Renew or amend a licence or permit for commercial use of resource	✓	✓	Category A if specifically permitted by an approved Land Use Strategy, other public review process, or appropriate type of management direction; otherwise Category B/C/D.

ID	Projects	Category A	Screen for Category[7]	Notes[4] (see footnotes at end of table)
97	**Public Health & Safety**			This is a component of all projects, however, specific items are listed here.
98	Conduct emergency operations[(1)]	✓		See Section 6.4.
99	Plug oil or gas well[(1)]	x	x	Subject to either SS Class EA or Declaration Order MNR-9.
100	**Waste Management**			
101	Implement recycling and composting	✓		
102	Collect solid waste and dispose of outside park or reserve[(1)]	✓		Non-hazardous and hazardous waste collection is carried out in accordance with Transport Canada and MOE regulations.
103	Collect non-hazardous solid waste in, and dispose within or outside park or reserve	✓	✓	Category A if carried out in accordance with an established and approved location for this purpose; otherwise Category B/C/D.[(9)]
104	Remove hazardous waste from, or treat or dispose of, inside park or reserve[(1)]		✓	
105	**Other operations projects not listed**	✓	✓	Screen to determine Category A/B/C/D.

Footnotes

OLL LUS – Ontario's Living Legacy Land Use Strategy, July 1999
SS Class EA – MNR's Class EA for Small Scale Projects (currently under review)

(1) Can be undertaken in a park or reserve without an approved management plan.

In a limited number of situations, MNR may proceed with a significant project in a park or reserve for which there is no approved management plan, in order to consider important ecological, social, economic or cultural benefits, despite the absence of a management plan. In such limited cases, a minimum of a Category C evaluation and consultation process will be undertaken, with a full consideration of alternatives to and alternative methods of carrying out the project. While this mechanism provides needed flexibility to manage the protected area systems, for clarity, it is MNR's aim to address significant, permanent developments through the normal management planning process described in Appendix 4.

(2) A minor boundary amendment meets these criteria:

- Administrative changes of a routine nature (e.g. exclude a mining claim, accommodate a road realignment);
- minor impacts on park or reserve values;
- minimal change in the land and/or resource management practices inside or outside the park or reserve;
- little public concern anticipated;
- minor changes to meet adjacent landowner needs (e.g., for a septic bed) in accordance with the OLL LUS.

Note: If the distinction between minor and major is unclear, consult the screening criteria in Table 4.1 for additional consideration, and/or treat as major.

(3) A major boundary amendment meets these criteria:

- likely to cause a marked change in the land or resource management practices inside or outside of the park or reserve;
- likely to cause significant public reaction locally, regionally or provincially;
- likely to have significant impact on park or reserve values;
- result in a reduction of more than 10% in the overall park area.

(4) For all projects under this class EA or subject to other *EA Act* instruments, the proponent is MNR, except where otherwise noted.

(5) Including parks/reserves not yet in regulation but recommended by an approved Land Use Strategy.

(6) Regulations to designate areas in *OLL LUS (July, 1999)*, including the *Temagami Land Use Plan (1997)* as parks and conservation reserves, are not included in the project list because they are already declared not subject to the *EA Act* (s.5) by Declaration Order MNR-65.

(7) Where indicated "Category B/C/D", "Category C/D", or "Category A/B/C/D", assignment to the specific category is subject to screening as described in Section 4. The exception is where a specific category has been noted in this appendix.

(8) Repairing water, sewage, telecommunications and electric services is considered maintenance. Projects that replace or upgrade services are development per footnote 18.

(9) May consist of recurring projects generally conforming with the original project description and within the original subject area, for a period of up to 10 years.

(10) Minor fish/wildlife management and animal control projects meet these criteria:

- a one-time project, limited to one calendar year or a particular area;
- does not involve or affect species at risk.

All other projects are major.

Note: The making of regulations to establish seasons for fishing and hunting is not within the subject matter of this Class EA.

(11) Development includes, and maintenance does not include, expanding, enlarging, or entirely replacing existing development. Replacement of some of the materials within the development with similar materials (for example, replacing dock planks or building siding, replacing concrete in a dam, or resurfacing a road or parking lot) is maintenance.

(12) Minor building or structure meets these criteria:

- is in an access or development zone;
- if an enclosed new building with piped or stand-alone water or sewer services, its footprint is 400 m^2 or less;
- is a shelter (not enclosed) or an enclosed building with no services;
- replaces an existing building of the same general size and footprint;
- is not part of an integrated complex of buildings (e.g., administration complex, Ontario Ranger camp) that is being developed or redeveloped and that taken together, would exceed the above footprint criteria);
- is a structure that is not a building and does not fall within any other type of project listed in this appendix and its footprint is 400 m^2 or less, and its height is 10 m or less.

All other buildings or structures are major.

(13) Reconstructing a campground is considered maintenance, not development, provided it does not in any way enlarge the footprint of the area devoted to campsites, and does not increase the campground's total number of individual sites or total capacity at group campsites.

(14) Minor trail, portage, boardwalk, viewing tower, platform, or blind meets these criteria:

- intended for non-mechanized use;
- is a small new bridge (e.g., bank to bank) that does not require bank work or in-water cribs;
- is a boardwalk or viewing tower or platform where there is no work undertaken in creeks, rivers or lakes (e.g., does not require in-water support work);
- is a temporary blind.

All other projects are major.

(15) All operations will be in accordance with approved Ontario Parks standards and applicable MNR manuals, guidelines and standards.

(16) If the operation or development is on disposed land within the park or reserve, is a concession, or exclusively supports a disposition or concession (e.g., road, water or sewage services), the disposition holder or concessionaire is the co-proponent and must meet Class EA requirements, per Section 3.4 (partnerships).

(17) Despite the definition of minor, MNR may determine that a project that meets the minor criteria should be considered major.

(18) Minor water, sewage, telecommunications and electrical projects meet these criteria:

- a replacement or upgrading of, or improvements to, an existing system that continues to serve the same number of people, and that maintains the same footprint (in the same location);
- no environmental effects anticipated;
- no concerns anticipated, or if any are readily addressed;
- if in parks, is within development or access zones.

All other projects are major.

(19) Fish stocking in new waters means that the species to be stocked is present in Ontario but not in that water body. Supplemental stocking means that the species to be stocked is present in the water body.

(20) Retiring (abandoning) a dam, weir, or dike is considered development, not retirement.

(21) Subject to *Provincial Parks Act* and regulations, other applicable legislation, *OLL LUS* or other approved land use strategy, *Ontario Provincial Parks Planning and Management Policies*, MNR's conservation reserves policies, and the appropriate type of management direction for the park or reserve.

(22) The beneficiary of the project (e.g., mining company seeking a lease, municipality proposing a road, tourism accommodation operation, etc.) is the proponent.

(23) The relevant provincial or federal EA process is one of the following:

- the appropriate Class EA:
  - for highway development, Class EA for Provincial Transportation Facilities.
  - for municipal road or municipal services development, Municipal Class EA.
  - for a hydro transmission line and associated facilities 115 kV or over and less than 500 kV, Class EA for Minor Transmission Facilities (see also exclusions in the Class EA, and footnote 24 below).
- an individual Class EA or Declaration Order.
- for an oil or gas pipeline, Ontario Energy Board's *Environmental Guidelines for the Location, Construction, and Operation of Hydrocarbon Pipelines and Facilities in Ontario.*
- a process under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act.*

(24) May also be affected by MOE's pending *Regulation and Guideline for the Environmental Screening Process for Electricity Projects.* For matters pertaining to the planning, designing, establishing, constructing, operating, changing, expanding or retiring hydro or transmission facilities, consult environmental assessment and water power program staff specialists.

(25) A pit privy serving a back-country area (such as a hike-in or canoe-in campsite, trail or portage) is considered part of the campsite, trail or portage and is not a building or structure.

(26) Some activities and construction projects in conservation reserves are subject to the *Public Lands Act* and may require a work permit. For clarity, such a disposition for the conservation reserve is being carried out under this Class EA and not declaration order MNR-26/7.

Appendix 3: Policies, Procedures, Guidelines, Standards, Manuals

This appendix summarizes the key, relevant support tools pertaining to provincial parks and conservation reserves. Not all are listed, and each is reviewed and amended from time to time to take into account changing circumstances and needs. While they are not the subject of the Class EA, they provide a supporting context for how projects are carried out.

Provincial Park Policies, Procedures, Bulletins & Manuals

Administration

Type/Number	Subject	Date Issued
Pol 1.00	Provincial Parks Policy Implementation Details	Jan. 1/89
Pol 1.01	Policy and Procedure for Provincial Parks	Apr. 1/94
Bul 1.02	Directives from Other Branches that are Applicable to Provincial Parks Operations	Feb. 1/95

Operations

Type/Number	Subject	Date Issued
Pol 2.03	Capacity Standards and Control in Provincial Parks	Jan. 1/99
Bul 2.09	Group Camping in Provincial Parks - Notification of Medical Officer of Health	May. 1/98
Pol 2.15	Day-Use Privileges in Provincial Parks with a Campsite and Vehicle Permit	Dec. 1/95
Pol 2.16	Use of Pesticides and Herbicides in Provincial Parks	Aug. 1/93
Pol 2.20	Collection of Historical Equipment and Artifacts in Provincial Parks	Feb. 1/97
Pol 2.27	Emergency Plans	Apr. 1/90
Bul 2.27	Dangerous Goods in Provincial Parks	Dec. 1/95
Pol 2.35	Instructions for Campers at Unattended Provincial Park Offices	Dec. 1/85
Pol 2.36	Operation of Waterfront Bathing Area in Provincial Parks	Feb. 1/01
Bul 2.36.01	Operation of Waterfront Bathing Areas - Warning Signs	Apr. 1/90
Bul 2.36.03	Operation of Waterfront Bathing Areas - Buoy Lines and Markers	Nov. 1/84
Bul 2.36.04	Prohibiting Watercraft and Similar Devices in Designated Swimming Areas	July 1/88
Pol 2.37	Search and Rescue -Provincial Parks	May 1/99
Pol 2.41	Minimum Operating Standards for Provincial Parks	Apr. 1/92
Bul 2.42	Safe Handling of Chemicals used in Water Treatment Cleaning and Odour Control in Provincial Parks	Jan. 1/95
Pol 2.45	Research Activities in Provincial Parks	July 1/94
Pro 2.45.01	Research Activities in Provincial Parks	Dec. 1/94
Pol 2.47	High Risk Activities by Organized Group in Provincial Parks	Apr. 1/94
Pol 2.48	General Liability in Provincial Parks	June 1/87
Pol 2.49	Park Operating Plan	Feb. 1/97
Pol 2.54	Control of Noxious Weeds in Provincial Parks	Mar. 1/95
Pol 2.56.	Issuance of Land Use Permits in Provincial Parks	Apr. 1/97
Pro 2.56.01	Issuance of Land Use Permits in Provincial Parks	Apr. 1/97
Pol 2.57	Seasonal Leasing	May 1/98

Enforcement

Type/Number	Subject	Date Issued
Pol 3.00	Park Warden Guidelines	May 1/96
Pol 3.01	Security Officer Guidelines	June 1/93
Pol 3.03	Park Warden Training	Feb. 1/97
Pol 3.04	Security Officer Training	Feb. 1/99
Pol 3.05	Liaison with Ontario Provincial Police Concerning Provincial Parks	July 1/95

Staff Training and Development

Type/Number	Subject	Date Issued
Pol 5.01	Staff Training	Dec. 1/94
Pol 5.02	Parks Training Program	Apr. 1/92
Bul 5.02	Parks Training Program	Apr. 1/94
Pro 5.02.01	Parks Training Program - Elective Seals	Mar. 1/94
Pol 5.03	Staff Training in Customer Service	July 1/93
Pro 5.03.01	Staff Training in Customer Service	July 1/93

Visitor Services

Type/Number	Subject	Date Issued
Pol 6.00	Visitor Centres in Provincial Parks	Apr. 1/97
Pol 6.02	Natural Heritage Education in Ontario Parks	Nov. 1/98
Bul 6.02	Interpretive Service in Provincial Parks in Designated Areas	Mar. 1/90
Pro 6.02.01	Zone and Park Natural Heritage Education Plans	May 1/99
Pol 6.04	Provincial Park Cooperating Associations	July 1/93

Design and Development

Type/Number	Subject	Date Issued
Pol 7.01	Construction of Park Facilities and Structures	Dec. 1/95
Bul 7.01	Municipal Building Permits not Required in Provincial Parks	Feb. 1/93
Pro 7.01.01	Site Planning\Development in Provincial Parks	Dec. 1/95
Pro 7.01.2	Provincial Park Facility Project Audits	Dec. 1/95
Pol 7.03	Park Asset Management Inventory	Apr. 1/97
Pro 7.03.01	Park Asset Management Inventory System	Jan. 1/98
Pol 7.06	Inventory Base Map of Park Structures and Utilities	Feb. 1/93
Pol 7.07	Entrances to Provincial Parks from Public Roads	Feb. 1/93
Pol 7.08	Proposed Development by an Outside Agency in a Provincial Park	Dec. 1/95
Pol 7.09	Playground and Equipment Safety Inspection in Provincial Parks	Dec. 1/95
Pol 7.10	Inspection of Electrical Installations in Provincial Parks	Dec. 1/95
Pol 7.11	Utility Cables in Provincial Parks	Dec. 1/95
Pol 7.12	Conversion of Vault Privies to Flush-o-matic Toilets	Dec. 1/95
Pol 7.13	Road Dust Control	Feb. 1/93
Pro 7.14.01	Provincial Parks Access Roads Agreement	Dec. 1/95
Bul 7.15	Buoy Line Anchorage	Feb. 1/93
Bul 7.16	Backflow Prevention for Portable Water System	May 1/91
Bul 7.17	Liquid Level Switches for Portable Water Reservoirs	May 1/91

Contracting and Concessions

Type/Number	Subject	Date Issued
Pol 8.01	Establishing a Concession	Dec. 1/83
Pol 8.02	Approval Requirements for Service & Concession Contracting in Provincial Parks	Aug. 1/87
Pol 8.06	Concessions - Public Liability, Property Damage and Fire Insurance	Dec. 1/84

Sanitation

Type/Number	Subject	Date Issued
Pol 9.01	Public Health Inspection	Feb. 1/93
Pol 9.02	Garbage Disposal	Dec. 1/95
Pol 9.03	Hydropneumatic Tanks in Provincial Park Water Systems	Jan. 1/93
Pol 9.04	Water Monitoring in Provincial Parks	May 1/98
Pro 9.04.01	Drinking Water Monitoring in Provincial Parks	May 1/98
Pro 9.04.02	Bathing Beach Water Monitoring in Provincial Parks	Jan. 1/95
Pro 9.05	Water Supply Data Collection (Water Meter Report)	June 1/97
Pro 9.06	Septic Tank System Approval	Jan. 1/95
Pro 9.07	Parks Water Systems Approval	Feb. 1/86
Pol 9.08	Sewage Waste Disposal	Apr. 1/93
Pol 9.09	Trailer Sink Waste Disposal	May 1/98

Type/Number	Subject	Date Issued
Pol 9.10	Disinfection of Water Works in Provincial Parks	Jan. 1/95
Pol 9.11	Additives to Sewage Systems (Odour Control)	July 1/94
Pol 9.12	Plugging Abandoned Wells in Provincial Parks	Apr. 1/93
Pol 9.13	Facility Classification and Operator Certification	Dec. 1/95
Pol 9.14	Water Works Approval	Feb. 1/95
Pol 9.15	Food Service in Provincial Parks (Special Events)	May 1/99
Pol 9.16	Food Handling Training	May 1/98
Pol. 9.17	Spill of Pollutants in Provincial Parks	June 1/97
Pol. 9.19	Establishment of a Food Premise Operation	May 1/98

Park Planning

Type/Number	Subject	Date Issued
Pol 11.01	Amending and Rescinding Provincial Park Boundaries	Jan. 31/98
Pro 11.01	Amending and Rescinding Provincial Park Boundaries	Jan. 31/98
Bul 11.01.01	Boundary Description for Recommended Provincial Parks	May. 17/88
Pol 11.01.03	Establishing New Parks Under the Provincial Parks Act	Apr. 1/89
Pro 11.01.03	Establishing New Parks Under the Provincial Parks Act	Apr. 1/89
Pol 11.02	Authority for Provincial Park Management Plans	Jan. 1/95
Pol 11.02.01	Preparation of Interim Management Statements	Aug. 1/94
Pro 11.02.01	Preparation of Interim Management Statements	Jan. 31/98
Bul 11.02.01	Guidelines for the Preparation of Interim Management Statements	Jan. 31/98
Pol 11.02.02	Approval of Preliminary and Recommended Park Management Plans	Jan. 31/98
Pro 11.02.02	Approval of Preliminary and Recommended Park Management Plans	Jan. 31/98
Bul 11.02.02	List of Mandatory & Discretionary Contacts for Public Consultation Programs	Jan. 31/98
Pol 11.02.03	Park Management Plan Amendment and Review	Jan. 31/98
Pro 11.02.03	Park Management Plan Amendment or Review	Jan. 31/98
Bul 11.02.03	Content and Consultation Guidelines - Major Amendment to Approved Park Management Plan	Jan. 31/98
Pol 11.02.04	Management Planning in Provincial Parks Using an Advisory Committee	Jan. 31/98
Pro 11.02.04	Management Planning in Provincial Parks Using an Advisory Committee	Jan. 31/98
Pol 11.03.01	Preparation of Implementation Plans for Provincial Parks	Jan. 31/98
Pro 11.03.01	Preparation of Implementation Plans for Provincial Parks	Jan. 31/98
Bul 11.03.01	Guidelines for the Preparation of Provincial Parks Implementation Plans	Jan. 31/98
Pro 11.03.02	Protection of Vulnerable, Threatened and Endangered Species in Provincial Parks	Jan. 31/98
Bul 11.04	Incorporating EBR requirements in park planning processes	Jan. 31/98
Pol 11.05	Treatment of Human Burial Sites In Provincial Parks	June 30/98
Pro 11.05	The Discovery of a Burial Site	June 30/98

Ontario Parks Standards and Manuals

- Park Development Standards, 1983
- Minimum Operating Standards, 1992 update
- Ontario Provincial Parks Planning and Management Policies, 1992
- Environmental Assessment In Ontario Provincial Parks: An Interim Reference Manual for Field Staff, 1994
- Ontario Provincial Parks Management Planning Manual, 1994
- Barrier Free Guidelines Design Manual, 1996
- Guidelines for Alternative Roofed Accommodations Projects, 1998
- Design Manual, 2000

Conservation Reserve Policy, Procedures, Bulletins & Manuals

Type/Number	Subject	Date Issued
Pol PL 3.03.05	Conservation Reserves	Feb 11, 1997
Pro PL 3.03.05	Conservation Reserves A. - Resource Management Planning B. - Land Uses-Test of Compatibility C. - Research Activities	Feb 11, 1997

Other Manuals & Guidelines Applicable to Provincial Parks & Conservation Reserves

The Construction and Mitigation Handbook: This handbook was prepared as a supplement to the Field Environmental Planning Procedure. It identifies potential negative impacts associated with the small scale projects and presents alternative methods for preventing or mitigating them.

Environmental Assessment Procedures Manual for MNR Activities: These procedures are updated from time to time, and provide procedural direction to staff on the implementation of environmental assessment needs.

Provincial Guidelines and Resource/Environmental Manuals

The timber environmental assessment hearings, completed in 1994, placed importance on the use of environmental guidelines and standards that modify how timber management is carried out in recognition of other values. MNR staff may use the existing guidelines to ensure values are protected in provincial parks and conservation reserves.

Forest Management Guidelines

- Forest Management Guidelines for Retaining Forest Ecosystem Structure and Function: The Fire Simulation Guidelines (Draft)
- Timber Management Guidelines for the Protection of Fish Habitat, 1988 (under revision)
- Timber Management Guidelines for the Provision of Moose Habitat, 1988 (under revision)
- Forest Management Guidelines for the Provision of White-tailed Deer Habitat, August 1997
- Forest Management Guidelines for the Conservation of Woodland Caribou: A Landscape Approach (Final Draft, January 1999)
- Forest Management Guidelines for the Provision of Marten Habitat, 1996
- Forest Management Guidelines for the Provision of Pileated Woodpecker Habitat, 1996
- Forest Management Guidelines for the Protection of the Physical Environment, 1997
- Forest Management Guidelines for the Emulation of Fire Disturbance (in preparation)
- Timber Management Guidelines for the Protection of Tourism Values, 1986 (under revision)
- Timber Management Guidelines for the Protection of Cultural Heritage Resources, 1991 (under revision)
- A Silvicultural Guide to Managing for Black Spruce, Jack Pine and Aspen on Boreal Forest Ecosites in Ontario, 1997
- A Silvicultural Guide for the Tolerant Hardwood Forest in Ontario, 1998
- A Silvicultural Guide for the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Conifer Forest in Ontario, 1998
- A Silvicultural Guide to Managing Southern Ontario Forests (in preparation)
- Boreal Mixedwood Notes (in preparation)
- A Silvicultural Guide for the Boreal Mixedwood Forest in Ontario (in preparation)

- A Tree-Marking Guide for the Tolerant Hardwoods Working Group in Ontario, 1993 (under revision)

Resource/Environmental Manuals

- A Management Framework for Woodland Caribou Conservation in Northwestern Ontario, June 1999
- Guidelines for Providing Furbearer Habitat in Timber Management, March 1986 (Draft)
- Management Guidelines and Recommendations for Osprey in Ontario, 1983
- Bald Eagle Habitat Management Guidelines, June 1987
- Golden Eagle Habitat Management Guidelines, November 1987
- Habitat Management for Ontario's Forest Nesting Accipiters, Buteos and Eagles, March 1984
- Peregrine Falcon Habitat Management Guidelines, June 1988 (under revision)
- Management Guidelines for the Protection of Heronries in Ontario, April 1984
- Habitat Management Guidelines for Cavity Nesting Birds in Ontario, March1984
- Habitat Management Guidelines for Warblers of Ontario's Northern Coniferous Forests, Mixed Forests or Southern Hardwood Forests, March 1984
- Habitat Management Guidelines for Waterfowl in Ontario, March 1985
- Habitat Management Guidelines for Birds of Ontario Wetlands including Marshes, Swamps and Fens or Bogs of Various Types (excluding waterfowl), March 1985
- Habitat Management Guidelines for Bats of Ontario, August 1984
- Selected Wildlife and Habitat Features: Inventory Manual, 1998
- Hawk Guide for MNR Field Personnel, 1991
- Forest Raptors and Their Nests in Central Ontario, 1998

Operation and Construction Manuals

- Environmental Guidelines for Access Roads and Water Crossing, 1988 (under revision)
- Prescribed Burn Planning Manual, 1997
- Aerial Spraying for Forest Management, January 1991 (under revision)
- Code of Practice for Timber Management Operations in Riparian Areas, 1991
- Design and Construction Guidelines for Work Under the Drainage Act
- Technical Guidelines for Erosion and Sediment Control
- Access Roads Manual, 1992

Other Guidelines and Manuals

- Development of Forest Operations Prescriptions (in preparation)
- Field Guide to the Forest Ecosystem Classification for Northwestern Ontario, 1997
- Field Guide to Forest Ecosystems of Northeastern Ontario, 1994 (under revision)
- Field Guide to the Forest Ecosystems of Central Ontario, 1997
- Regeneration Survey Manual for Ontario, 1981
- Silvicultural Effectiveness Monitoring Guideline [in preparation; to replace Regeneration Survey Manual for Ontario]
- Forest Compliance Handbook, 1996
- Species and Stock Selection Manual, 1996

Appendix 4: Provincial Context

This appendix provides background information about MNR's planning system. It presents the context for the Class EA, but is not the subject of the Class EA.

4.1 Strategic Planning

Strategic planning provides the context for the definition and description of corporate direction. It provides MNR with the opportunity to:

- Identify and analyze ecological, social, cultural, and economic trends at the global to local scales, and to gauge change.
- Conduct analyses to measure program strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, costs, and threats.
- Provide direction to guide the establishment of program priorities, policy, and legislation.

4.1.1 Beyond 2000

Beyond 2000 is MNR's framework for strategic planning – it consists of a number of interrelated elements.

The ministry's vision, sustainable development, sets out the overall goal of the ministry and the desired end state for the use and management of our natural resources, while the ministry's mission, ecological sustainability, describes the role of the ministry in achieving the vision. A set of desired outcomes identifies specific purposes to be achieved in managing our natural resources in a manner consistent with the ministry's vision and mission. The ministry's operating philosophy of resource stewardship and the stewardship principles, set out the system of beliefs, values and principles which guide MNR decision-making and actions.

The strategic planning framework also sets out six supporting strategies:

- Integrated resource management.
- Partnerships in resource management.
- Valuing resources.
- Knowledge and information base.
- Customer service.
- Organizational excellence.

Together, these strategies describe in broad terms how the ministry proposes to conduct its activities and the methods and approaches the ministry will undertake to achieve the ministry's vision, mission and desired outcomes.

Beyond 2000: MNR's Strategic Direction

Vision:
To contribute to the environmental, social and economic well being of the people of Ontario through the sustainable development of natural resources.

Mission:
To manage our natural resources in an ecologically sustainable way to ensure they are available for the enjoyment and use of future generations.

Desired Outcomes
- The long-term health of ecosystems is maintained.
- The continuing availability and sustainability of natural resources is secured.
- Significant natural heritage features and landscape values are protected.
- Economic development potential associated with natural resources is maintained.
- Ontarians receive a fair return for the use of natural resources.
- A variety of natural resource-based recreation opportunities are provided.
- Human life, property, and natural resource values are protected from hazards such as forest fires, floods and erosion.
- Management decisions are based on high quality natural resource science and information.
- The public interest in Ontario's natural resources and the need to manage them sustainably is appreciated.

To aid in the implementation and evaluation of the strategy, specific performance measures for core businesses and programs are developed.

These strategic directions provide a basis and context for the ministry's business plan, which annually sets out a program of activities and initiatives that the ministry proposes to carry out in the conduct of its mandate.

The delivery of the provincial parks and conservation reserves programs contribute substantially to MNR's strategic directions.

4.1.2 Nature's Best

Nature's Best (*Ontario's Parks & Protected Areas-A Framework and Action Plan, 1997*), recognizes the evolving concern in Ontario for natural heritage values and the need for protected areas. Nature's Best provides a framework for focussing activities, coordinating various related initiatives, and identifying needed reforms associated with the challenges and opportunities in the developed areas of southern Ontario, the forested regions of central and northern Ontario (coinciding with the Ontario Living Legacy planning area), as well as the far north. The framework renews the Government's commitment to establishing Ontario's system of protected areas, by providing the context and direction for Ontario's system, as described in the following goal and objectives.

Goal:

> *To establish a system of protected natural heritage areas, representing the full spectrum of the province's natural features and ecosystems.*

Objectives:

- *Identification:* To identify, evaluate and select areas that embody the provincially significant geological, aquatic and terrestrial diversity of the Province.
- *Protection:* To protect a system of natural heritage areas through legislation, regulations, policies and programs.
- *Supportive Landscape Management:* To foster land use planning and management in the intervening landscape that ensures ecological sustainability of a system of protected natural heritage areas.
- *Area Management:* To manage a system of protected natural heritage areas in order to retain and restore representative and special ecological and geological features, processes and systems.
- *Shared Responsibility:* To manage a system of protected areas on public and private lands through consultation, cooperation, and partnerships among government and non-government organizations, Aboriginal peoples, industry and private landowners.

A Brief History of Ontario's Protected Areas

1887	Queen Victoria Niagara Falls Park-first protected area.
1893	Algonquin-Ontario's first provincial park.
1913	First *Parks Act* was passed and Quetico Park was established.
1954	A revised *Provincial Parks Act* passed; a Division of Parks was established.
1959	First park policy statement was read in the legislature and the *Wilderness Areas Act* was passed.
1960	Ontario had 72 parks.
1961	Nature Reserves Committee tabled a list of candidate areas for protection.
1965	10 new provincial parks established.
1978	A new provincial parks policy was approved by Cabinet, laying the foundation for a systems approach.
1983	155 parks were designated through province-wide land use planning. The *"Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest"* program was established.
1995	Ontario created a new Conservation Reserve designation under the *Public Lands Act*.
1996	Government released *Nature's Best*
1997	*Lands for Life* land use planning initiated to complete the system of parks and protected areas.
1997	Government initiates the "Natural Areas Protection Program", a $20 million program to purchase key natural areas.
1999	Ontario's Premier announced 378 new protected areas (parks and conservation reserves) amounting to 2.4 million hectares as part of the *Living Legacy* Land Use Strategy.
2000	$10 million *Ontario Parks Legacy 2000* land acquisition partnership with Nature Conservancy completed.

The two most significant forms of protected areas in Ontario's system are provincial parks and conservation reserves, described in the following sections.

4.1.3 Provincial Park Policy

Provincial parks policy has evolved over the last century, since the establishment of Algonquin Park in 1893. Today, provincial parks are governed by three key tools: *Ontario Provincial Parks Act*, the *Ontario Provincial Parks Policy Statement*, and *Ontario Provincial Parks: Planning and Management Policies*.

The 1978 Cabinet-approved *Ontario Provincial Parks Policy Statement* established the goal and objectives for the park system, provided nine guiding principles, and identified the six classes of parks which comprise the current system (MNR, 1992).

The **goal** of the Ontario provincial parks system is:

> *To ensure that Ontario's provincial parks protect significant natural, cultural, and recreational environments, while providing ample opportunities for visitors to participate in recreational activities.*

The four key **objectives** are:

- *Protection:* To protect provincially significant elements of the natural and cultural landscape of Ontario.
- *Recreation:* To provide outdoor recreation opportunities ranging from high-intensity day-use to low-intensity wilderness experiences.
- *Heritage Appreciation:* To provide opportunities for exploration and appreciation of the outdoor natural and cultural heritage of Ontario.
- *Tourism:* To provide Ontario's residents and out-of-province visitors with opportunities to discover and experience the distinctive regions of the province.

Nine **principles** guide the management of the provincial parks system:

- *Permanence:* The provincial parks system is dedicated for all time to the present and future generations of the people of Ontario for their healthful enjoyment and appreciation.
- *Distinctiveness:* Provincial parks provide a distinctive range of quality outdoor recreation experiences, many of which cannot be provided in other types of parks; for example, wilderness travel and appreciation.
- *Representation:* Provincial parks are established to secure for posterity representative features of Ontario's natural and cultural heritage. Wherever possible, the best representations of our heritage will be included in the park system.
- *Variety:* The provincial parks system provides a wide variety of outdoor recreation opportunities, and protected natural and cultural landscapes and features.
- *Accessibility:* The benefits of the system will be distributed as widely as possible geographically and as equitably as possible socially so that they are accessible to all Ontario residents.
- *Coordination:* the provincial parks system will be managed to complement, rather than compete with, the private sector and other public agencies.
- *System:* Individual provincial parks contribute to the overall objectives of the provincial parks system; all objectives may not be met in each park. The park system, rather than the individual parks, provides the diversity of experiences and landscapes that are sought.
- *Classification:* No individual park can be all things to all people. Park classification organizes Ontario's provincial parks into broad categories, each of which has particular purposes and characteristics as well as distinctive planing, management and visitor service policies.

- *Zoning:* Ontario's provincial parks are zoned on the basis of resource significance and recreational potential; various types of zones ensure that users get the most out of individual parks. Planning and management policies appropriate to each zone types are applied consistently throughout the parks system.

The *Ontario Provincial Parks Planning and Management Policies* (commonly known as the Blue Book) was first tabled in 1978 as a companion document to the Provincial Park Policy statement, described above. Updated in 1992 to reflect new Government direction, this policy contains a mixture of park philosophy, systems rationale, program targets, and management policies associated with each class of provincial park.

The provincial parks system incorporates six classes of parks, which are selected to meet representation targets in addition to the protection of special values, as follows:

- *Wilderness Parks:* The target is to establish one Wilderness Park and one Wilderness Zone (in either a Waterway or Natural Environment Park) or a National Park equivalent in each ecological region.

- *Nature Reserve Parks:* Nature Reserve Parks and zones are established to represent and protect Ontario's geological, ecological, and species diversity. The target is to represent each of the vegetative types found in Ontario's 14 site regions (see Figure 8) and all of Ontario's past geological environments (MNR, 1992).

- *Historical Parks:* The evaluation and selection of archaeological and historical features in Ontario's provincial parks is based on criteria developed and described in "A Topical Organization of Ontario's History" (MNR, 1975). The system defines 13 significant landscape-related themes (and 115 sub-themes) that depict Ontario's human history.

- *Natural Environment Parks:* Natural Environment Parks are selected to protect large, representative, and ecologically viable areas throughout Ontario. They represent elements of geological, ecological, and species diversity commonly found within a site region, but not contained within Provincial Wilderness Parks or National Park equivalents. The target is to establish one Natural Environment Park in each of the province's ecological districts.

- *Waterway Parks:* Waterway Parks are selected river corridors that complement other parks by representing elements of diversity not found within these park classes. The class target is to establish one Waterway Park in each ecological district.

- *Recreation Parks:* Recreation Parks are selected to protect outstanding recreational environments. They also may include representative examples of Ontario's geological, ecological, and species diversity. There is no specific target for the number of Recreation Parks, though the intent it to ensure a sufficient supply of recreational and tourism opportunities.

Classification of provincial parks and zoning are the key elements in determining the type and extent of management activities that may take place in a provincial park. Classification sets the direction for the types of zones that a park may contain and the general approach used in formulating management policies (Figure 7). Park zoning permits further refinement in the development of alternative methods by setting limits on the range of management activities that can be considered—these activities are described in the "Blue Book". This approach is flexible enough that management policies can be tailored to reflect resource significance and management objectives for individual parks during the management planning stage (refer to Section 4.3.1 in this appendix). At the same time, it ensures general consistency in approach across the entire system (MNR, 1992).

Figure 4. The use of zones in Ontario's Provincial Parks

Class of Park	Zones					
	Wilderness	Nature Reserve	Historical	Natural Environment	Development	Access
Wilderness	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes
[illegible]						
Historical	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
[illegible]						
Waterway	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
[illegible]						

Notes: ++ A Wilderness Zone designation is not required given the purpose and restrictive management prescriptions for Nature Reserve Parks. Recreation Utilization Zones only apply to Algonquin Park.
Source: MNR, 1992a

4.1.4 Conservation Reserve Policy

Conservation reserves are established to protect natural heritage values on public lands while permitting compatible land use activities (MNR, 1997). This newer form of protection in Ontario was first used in 1994.

Conservation reserves are regulated under *the Public Lands Act,* as well as being withdrawn from staking under the *Mining Act* and removed from licensed forest areas under the *Crown Forest Sustainability Act.* They are managed in accordance with the Conservation Reserves Policy, which provides direction for establishing, planning and managing conservation reserves.

Conservation reserves are a component of MNR's broader natural heritage areas program, and are guided by the broad goals and objectives described previously in Section 4.1.2 Nature's Best. The systems planning method used to select conservation reserves is described in the next section.

4.2 Protected Area Systems Planning & Land Use Planning

4.2.1 Systems Planning

Systems planning involves the identification and selection of provincially significant areas that merit protection. Two organizing concepts are used to identify MNR's system of natural heritage areas: representation, and special values.

The primary concept is representation. Areas that are identified contain the best available examples to represent the full spectrum of natural characteristics, or natural diversity, of the province. These elements are defined by scientific criteria, using a 'gap analysis' methodology.

- Geological (earth science) diversity includes distinct geological and geomorphological features. They are distinguished by their age, stratigraphy, and topography. Representative earth science features have been organized into 44 themes and more than 1200 typical rock types, fossil assemblages, landforms and related processes. Provincial park policy includes representation

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	Wilderness	Nature Reserve	Historical	Natural Environment	Development	Access
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Nature Reserve	++	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes
Historical	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Natural Environment	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Waterway	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Recreation	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Notes: ++ A Wilderness Zone designation is not required given the purpose and restrictive management prescriptions for Nature Reserve Parks. Recreation Utilization Zones only apply to Algonquin Park.
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targets for earth science features (refer to Section 4.1.3 in this appendix). Conservation reserves contribute to this representation.

- Terrestrial (life science or ecological) diversity is defined on the basis of 14 ecological regions (Figure 8) and a subset of 67 ecological districts that comprise Ontario's ecological land classification. Representation is based on protecting the best available examples of Ontario's ecological regions and districts. Provincial park policy includes representation targets for four classes of parks using the ecological land classification (refer to Section 4.1.3 in this appendix). Conservation reserves contribute to this representation.

- Aquatic diversity is included in the protected areas system, incidentally. A formal system for protecting representative areas, features or species has not yet been developed, though work in this area is in progress.

The second concept involves the identification of special natural heritage values, for example, an endangered species' habitat. Although this habitat is provincially significant because it supports an endangered species, it may not be especially representative of the broader landscape in which it occurs.

Through protected area systems planning, priority natural areas are identified for further consideration through a variety of securement mechanisms, such as:

- Crown land use planning processes.
- Purchase (e.g., through Natural Areas Protection Program and the Ontario Parks-Legacy 2000).
- Donations and bequests.
- Private land stewardship initiatives.
- Other evolving approaches (e.g., formal lease agreements with private landowners, conservation easements, etc.).

Figure 5. Ontario's Ecological Regions

4.2.2 Land Use Planning

Through public planning and review processes, MNR establishes land use strategies that guide the allocation of Crown lands. Land use planning seeks to identify and balance the allocation of Crown resources in a manner that meets public interest and Government priorities. MNR's strategic direction, *Beyond 2000* (Section 4.1.1 in this appendix) provides the context in which land use planning is undertaken, and in turn, land use planning yields decisions on new provincial parks and conservation reserves.

Ontario currently has 271 regulated provincial parks that encompass approximately 7.1 million hectares, or 6.6% of the province. In 1999, 61 new parks and additions to 45 existing parks were announced by the Government through the *Ontario Living Legacy Land Use Strategy* – this will add approximately

913,352 hectares to the provincial parks system, bringing the total number to 332 parks, and the total area to about 7.2 million hectares (Figure 9).

Conservation reserves arose as a new protected area designation in Ontario in 1994 during the government's *Keep it Wild Campaign* to create new protected areas. Between 1994-97, 23 reserves were established, amounting to 68,734 hectares. As a result of the *Temagami Land Use Plan* (MNR, 1997), and the *Ontario's Living Legacy Land Use Strategy* (MNR, 1999), 280 new conservation reserves (plus one addition) encompassing approximately 1,517,421 hectares will be established (Figure 10).

The conservation reserves mechanism complements the provincial parks system by protecting important representative areas and special values of the province. They differ by allowing a wider array of traditional local uses.

As a result of the *Ontario Living Legacy Land Use Strategy* and other land acquisition initiatives, the total area of Ontario's lands and waters formally protected in provincial parks and conservation reserves will be approximately 9.5 million hectares, representing about 8.8 percent of the province. These figures will change with time as a result of ongoing processes, such as:

- Amendments or updates to existing land use strategies.
- Preparation of new land use strategies, such as in the far north.
- More detailed local-level land use planning.
- Amendments to provincial park or conservation reserve boundaries that may be identified through public management planning processes.

Figure 7. Conservation Reserves in Ontario

Conservation Reserve	Number	Area (ha)
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
New/Additions	280/1	1,517,421
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Source: Natural Areas database for regulated areas (as of June 2000).

Figure 6. The Number and Types of Established & New Provincial Parks in Ontario

Park Class	Current Number	Current Area (ha)	New/Additions (#)	New Area (ha)	Total Number	Total Area (ha)
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Nature Reserve	94	93,370	13/7	83,743	107	177,113
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Natural Environment	66	1,192,226	12/21	277,658	78	1,469,884
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Recreation	70	39,861	0(-1)/2	1,853	69	41,714
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Source: Ontario Parks database for "current" statistics (as of June 2000) and Table 1 in *Ontario's Living Legacy Land Use Strategy* (1999) for "new" statistics (see footnotes in table 1).

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- Amendments or updates to existing land use strategies.
- Preparation of new land use strategies, such as in the far north.
- More detailed local-level land use planning.
- Amendments to provincial park or conservation reserve boundaries that may be identified through public management planning processes.

Figure 7. Conservation Reserves in Ontario

Conservation Reserve	Number	Area (ha)
Existing (regulated)	**23**	**68,734**
New/Additions	280/1	1,517,421
Total	**303**	**1,586,155**

Source: Natural Areas database for regulated areas (as of June 2000).

Figure 6. The Number and Types of Established & New Provincial Parks in Ontario

Park Class	Current Number	Current Area (ha)	New/Additions (#)	New Area (ha)	Total Number	Total Area (ha)
Wilderness	**8**	**4,822,921**	**0/2**	**31,688**	**8**	**4,854,609**
Nature Reserve	94	93,370	13/7	83,743	107	177,113
Historical	**4**	**2,107**	**1/0**	**5,163**	**5**	**7,270**
Natural Environment	66	1,192,226	12/21	277,658	78	1,469,884
Waterway	**29**	**885,815**	**37(-1)/13**	**578,279**	**65**	**1,464,094**
Recreation	70	39,861	0(-1)/2	1,853	69	41,714
Total	**271**	**7,036,300**	**61/45**	**978,384**	**332**	**8,014,684**

Source: Ontario Parks database for "current" statistics (as of June 2000) and Table 1 in *Ontario's Living Legacy Land Use Strategy* (1999) for "new" statistics (see footnotes in table 1).

4.3 Management Planning

4.3.1 Provincial Parks

Two types of management documents are used for provincial parks: Interim Management Statements (IMS) and Park Management Plans.

Interim Management Statements

Interim Management Statements are intended to guide the custodial management of a park until such time as a full management plan is prepared. At a minimum, the IMS identifies:

- Values to be protected.
- Resource management prescriptions necessary to protect values.
- Restrictions on existing or potential use.

IMS's are internal documents intended to provide short term guidance for park managers. Normally, significant capital development or decisions which could be permanent or irreversible are deferred to the management planning process, with the benefit of public input.

Park Management Plans

Management plans are prepared to identify management policies aimed at maintaining or enhancing the achievement of the four parks system objectives (protection, heritage appreciation, recreation, tourism) (MNR, 1994). *Ontario Provincial Parks: Planning and Management Policies* (MNR 1992) provides the provincial direction and context relating to classification, zoning, and permitted uses, while each management plan is developed to provide park-level policy. The Park Management Plan includes (MNR, 1994):

- A definition of the park's role, significance and classification in the context of the provincial system.
- A statement of policy, including classification and zoning, addressing the protection, planning, development and management of the significant resources and values with each park. Amendments to the park boundary (additions or deletions) are also prescribed.
- Documented evidence that planning, development and management activities reflect the need for environmental protection and sustainability and are responsive to public interests.
- Guidance in preparing subsidiary implementation plans for the various activities and projects needed to achieve park objectives.
- A rationale and priorities for the long term funding of capital development and operations.
- A record of issues identified through internal and public consultation, and their resolution through the management planning process.
- A basis for auditing the development, operations and resource management activities in a park.
- Assurance that proposed management activities and projects are assessed for *Environmental Assessment Act* compliance (this Class EA addresses this assurance).

The park management planning process is also used to re-examine any boundary concerns. Additions or deletions to a park boundary are identified during the process.

The park management planning process may contain as many as six distinct stages, with public consultation associated with each:

1. Preparation and approval of the terms of reference for the planning process.
2. Inventory and analysis of background information.
3. Identification of issues and the preparation of conceptual plan alternatives.
4. Preparation and review of the preliminary park management plan.
5. Preparation and approval of the recommended park management plan.
6. Scheduled or unscheduled review of the approved plan, or a plan amendment.

4.3.2 Conservation Reserves

Two types of management documents are prepared for conservation reserves: Statements of Conservation Interest (SCI), and Resource Management Plans.

Procedural guidelines assist staff in:

- Preparing Statements of Conservation Interest and Resource Management Plans.
- Reviewing proposed activities using a test of compatibility.
- Reviewing proposed research activities.

Refer to Appendix 3 for a listing of supporting tools.

Statements of Conservation Interest

The SCI is the policy document for a conservation reserve. It identifies area values and provides direction on management activities and appropriate/compatible uses. In most cases, where there are no complex issues, the SCI will serve as the only planning document that is required to guide resource management. Where planning information is based on limited information, major decisions, particularly those that are permanent or irreversible, should be left to the more comprehensive resource management planning process. The SCI contains the following information:

- A summary of earth and life science values and cultural resources represented and recreational opportunities available.
- An overview of inventories that have been completed or required.
- Sensitive values and locations.
- Management guidelines for the range of activities permitted in the reserve.
- Implementation priorities.
- Process for minor and major amendments.

Resource Management Plans

Resource management plans contain the same information as an SCI, though the process is more complex, with additional stages of planning and public review. RMP's are therefore more detailed and comprehensive than an SCI. For example, depending upon the degree of complexity, the process may include:

- Background information reports.
- Management options.
- Draft plan.
- Final plan.
- Public consultation at key stages.

As a result of the substantial increase in the number of conservation reserves and area protected through the *Ontario Living Legacy Land Use Strategy*, MNR anticipates a need to expand its policies, procedures, guidelines and other support tools for the planning and management of conservation reserves.

4.4 Implementation Planning

Implementation planning with public consultation is carried out for a variety of activities and projects and is supported by environmental assessment Orders, policies, procedures, guidelines and manuals for both provincial parks and conservation reserves.

In provincial parks, implementation plans are prepared to guide the operational delivery of resource stewardship, operations, and development activities and projects. They are subsidiary plans to Park Management Plans, and are intended to translate broad direction into specific actions. It is Ontario Park's policy to prepare implementation plans, called *Environmental Study Reports*, when comprehensive direction for a particular activity or project cannot be adequately provided for in the Park Management Plan. For example, an implementation plan was prepared to guide the reduction of Rondeau Provincial Park's deer herd, as a means to protect the biodiversity of the park's Carolinian ecosystem.

In addition, for provincial parks and conservation reserves, some projects and activities are subject to MNR's Class EA for Small Scale Projects. The Field Environmental Planning Process constitutes implementation planning. Implementation planning is supported by specific guidelines and tools (refer to Appendix 3).

The *Class EA for Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves* focuses on implementation activities.

Appendix 5: Assessing the Significance of Environmental Effects

An environmental effect is any change to the environment, positive or negative, that would occur as a result of a project, or any change to the project that may be caused by the environment. This Class EA requires MNR staff to assess the significance of environmental effects at a number of steps in the planning process, including:

- Using the screening process to assign projects to categories B, C or D.
- Assessing the environmental effects of a Category B project or activity.
- Assessing the environmental effects of the alternatives (where applicable) and the preferred alternative, in the case of a Category C project.

This appendix is intended to provide guidance to MNR staff in assessing the significance of potential environmental effects under individual criteria, for the project as a whole, and for alternatives. It includes factors that may be applied in assessing the significance of effects, and a series of considerations that should be taken into account in applying them. Further guidance is provided to assist in considering significance in conducting a screening, in assigning projects to categories or to individual EA, and in evaluating projects and alternatives.

5.1 Factors for the Assessment of Significance

The following factors may be used in assessing the significance of the environmental effects of a project.

Magnitude

Magnitude represents the relative severity or benefit of the effect under consideration. For example, the complete displacement of a feature would represent a greater magnitude of effect than a minor effect of, say, dust from construction of an adjacent project. Larger scale projects may often have a greater magnitude of effect. Relevant policies and standards may assist in assessing the magnitude of an effect.

The Value of the Feature or Situation Affected

Some features or situations may be given a higher priority than others. Where a project would have a negative effect on the values for which a Provincial Park of Conservation Reserve was established to protect, this would be of greater concern than most other criteria. An effect on an endangered species habitat would be of greater significance than an equivalent effect on an area of natural vegetation that is not identified as having any special importance. On a broader scale, effects under some categories of screening criteria, such as natural environmental effects, may be given greater priority over other effects.

Where a comparison of alternatives is undertaken, criteria or groups of criteria are prioritized or weighted according to their relative importance. It is important to ensure that value is not "double counted", both in the evaluations under each criterion and in the weightings or priorities used in the comparison.

Geographic Extent

Localized environmental effects may not be as significant as those that extend over a wide area.

Duration and Frequency

Effects should be considered for the construction, operation, and, where appropriate, the decommissioning phases of a project. Longer term or more frequent effects may have greater significance. For example, a temporary effect of project construction may be less significant than an effect of lesser magnitude that extends over the life of the project.

Likelihood of the Effect

Some effects are more easily predicted than others. Uncertainty should be recognized and reflected in the evaluation.

Reversibility and Irreversibility

Some effects such as groundwater contamination may be regarded as having a low likelihood, but would be difficult to reverse if they occur. Other effects may be relatively easy to remedy.

5.2 Other Considerations

The following considerations are intended to assist in applying the factors provided above.

Concerns of Interested Agencies, Groups and Individuals

The assessment should give full consideration to the input from consultation. In a screening, likely reaction would be assessed based on the experience of MNR staff in dealing with similar issues and stakeholders. Where there is uncertainty as to the possible reaction, the Class EA process provides for notification to assist in this decision. For category "B" or "C" projects, MNR staff will have the benefit of responses to notification and consultation activities to assist in this determination.

Information provided by the public, agencies and non-government organizations may contribute factual information that contributes to the "technical" assessment of significance. In other instances, input may reflect the level of concern regarding a project. MNR staff should be explicit in describing how information provided and concerns expressed by agencies, groups and individuals was considered in the determination of significance.

Level of Detail

Information on the existing environment and potential environmental effects should be reviewed and assessed for its adequacy in determining significance. Any gaps in the information required to assess significance should be identified. Where there are gaps, these should be recognized in a screening and specialist help may be sought or special studies may be initiated for a project evaluation.

The level of detail would generally increase as the process proceeds through screening to the assessment of alternatives (where appropriate) and the refinement of the project. Alternatives should be compared based on a generally equivalent level of detail.

Gross and Net Environmental Effects

A net (or residual) environmental effect is a change to the environment that would result from the project, following the application of proposed mitigation or enhancement measures. Monitoring may be proposed to assess the need for mitigation measures in the future.

In the project evaluations conducted under this Class EA, decisions on the significance of environmental effects are based either on the effects of the project with appropriate mitigation measures in place (as specified in the project description), or the effects with both appropriate mitigation and any additional measures found to be necessary during the project evaluation. Appropriate mitigation and enhancement measures would generally be those required by MNR guidance documents, and may be assumed for Category "A" projects. For Category "B" and "C" projects, the level of detail of information on additional mitigation measures and their anticipated effectiveness should be generally greater for more significant and complex effects, and for decisions taken at later stages of the process.

Direct and Indirect Effects

A project may give rise to a chain of environmental effects. For example, flooding of a reservoir can cause elevated levels of methyl mercury, followed by indirect effects including effects on fish, the destruction of a fishery, and impacts on a traditional or commercial economy. The potential for indirect effects should be considered in conducting more complex project evaluations.

Cumulative Effects

The total effect on the environment from two or more projects. Sometimes the effects of more than one project can accumulate so that they reach a critical threshold, or they can be compounded so that they create an effect that is greater than the sum of the parts.

Consideration should be given to whether the environment affected by the project is undergoing change as a result of other projects or activities. For example, if a campground is proposed on the shore of a lake on which marinas or other developments are also proposed, the longer term effects of all of these projects on water quality and fisheries, for example, should be taken into consideration.

Where there is potential for significant cumulative effects, this should be reflected in defining study areas for a project evaluation.

Tangibles and Intangibles

Some potential effects are more easily measured and predicted than others. More "subjective" effects such as visual and social impacts can often be neglected in favour of those for which "hard" information is more easily obtained. In such circumstances special consideration should be given to public input in assessing the significance of effects.

5.3 Comparing Alternatives

Where the project evaluation involves a comparison of alternative projects or locations, the comparison should demonstrate a logical and systematic consideration of potential net environmental effects. A detailed review of methodologies is beyond the scope of this Class EA, however the following general considerations apply:

The level of sophistication of the comparison should respond to the complexity of the project, its potential environmental effects, and the types of differences between alternatives.

There should be some assignment of priorities or weighting to the evaluation criteria or groups of criteria to be applied in the comparison. This should be reflective of MNR policy (e.g. priority to protection of the natural environment in natural environment zones), and public and agency input.

The comparison should provide enough information to enable a lay reader to understand the rationale supporting the selection of the preferred alternative. An evaluation matrix describing environmental effects under each criterion for each alternative, supported by a narrative description of the comparison, is helpful. Low, moderate and high positive and negative effects may be assigned to each criterion, and the ranges of values for indicators used to assess effects in each of these effect categories should be specified and explained.

Again, the advantages and disadvantages of the preferred alternative should be reviewed against the purpose the project is intended to serve. Any tradeoffs among positive and negative effects should respect MNR policy and the natural values which the area is intended to protect.

Appendix 6: Government Agencies

The following government and other agencies may have an interest in provincial park and conservation reserve projects, and should be considered in compiling mailing lists for notification and consultation.

Local

First Nations
Upper and lower tier municipalities
Conservation Authorities

Provincial

Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
Ministry of Community Services
Ministry of Citizenship, Culture and Recreation
Ministry of Education and Training
Ministry of Energy, Science and Technology
Ministry of the Environment
Ministry of Transportation
Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Ministry of Economic Development, Trade and Tourism
Ministry of Northern Development and Mines
Ontario Native Affairs Secretariat
Niagara Escarpment Commission

Federal

Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Environment Canada
Indian Affairs and Northern Development
Parks Canada

Aboriginal

Relevant aboriginal communities

Utilities

Ontario Power Generation
Hydro One Networks Limited
Local and private electricity utilities
Relevant gas utilities

Appendix 7: Other Relevant Federal and Provincial Legislation

The following is an outline of other federal and provincial legislation, as it may affect activities and projects conducted in provincial parks and conservation reserves. It is not an exhaustive description, and is intended for general guidance only.

7.1 Federal Legislation

Canadian Environmental Assessment Act

Projects that are subject to this Class EA may also be subject to the requirements of the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* (CEAA). Under the CEAA, federal departments are required to conduct an environmental assessment of projects for which they are the proponent, provide funds or lands to facilitate the project, or exercise a regulatory duty that is described in the CEAA Law List Regulation, in relation to the project. These are known as "triggers" to the Act. The federal department undertaking the environmental assessment is referred to as the Responsible Authority (RA).

The Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency administers the CEAA and in doing so provides advice, guidance and training to federal departments, proponents, the public and others related to the implementation and requirements of CEAA. Copies of the legislation and associated regulations, as well as other helpful reference materials, are found on the Agency's web site at: http://www.ceaa.gc.ca.

This appendix summarizes CEAA requirements. For specific details, refer to the legislation and the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency's Responsible Authority's Guide (November 1994).

Table A outlines potential CEAA triggers, along with an associated listing of RAs. Note that the CEAA does not apply if there is no trigger, per Table A. Where there is a trigger, the federal RA assesses the project in accordance with the requirements of the CEAA. Under CEAA, it is the RA's responsibility to establish the scope of the project and the scope of the assessment. Proponents of this Class EA, however, may suggest the scope of project and the scope of assessment. The RA may agree or require that additional information or issues be addressed.

Table B in this appendix provides further details on identifying federal departments who may have an interest in a project that is subject to this Class EA. These departments should be contacted as early as possible in the project planning process.

An objective of the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency is to ensure that where a project is subject to both federal and provincial environmental assessment requirements, the environmental assessment be coordinated and guided by the principal of one project – one assessment. Therefore, for a project that is subject to this Class EA, and that also requires an assessment in accordance with CEAA, the intent is that one assessment would be undertaken to meet the requirements of both processes. The Ontario Region Office of the Canadian Environmental Assessment should be contacted for further details (see below).

While it is often possible to use the Environmental Study Report (ESR) prepared under this Class EA (refer to Section 5) as the basis for the CEAA assessment, it should not be assumed that the ESR will always be sufficient or acceptable in all cases. Some additional information may have to

be incorporated depending on what the RA requires to meet CEAA requirements. The proponent should, therefore, contact the RA early in the process to confirm requirements for the assessment.

In cases where a permit or licence is required, a trigger may not be confirmed until the later stages of the planning process. Proponents are, therefore, encouraged to contact federal authorities with a potential interest in the project early in the planning process to discuss potential issues.

To determine whether your project is subject to the CEAA (in addition to referring to the triggers in Table A) and to obtain further details on the requirements and implementation of CEAA, please contact:

Regional Director
Ontario Region Office
Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency
55 St. Clair Avenue East
9th Floor, Room 907
Toronto, Ontario
M4T 1M2

Phone: 416-952-1576
Fax: 416-952-1573
E-mail: ceaa.ontario@ceaa.gc.ca

The two most common regulatory triggers for CEAA involve approvals under the *Fisheries Act* and the *Navigable Waters Protection Act*. Further details on these two pieces of legislation are provided below.

Fisheries Act

Any works that occur in or near water may require authorization under the *Fisheries Act*. The federal *Fisheries Act* provides protection for fish and fish habitat. Under the habitat provisions of the Act, no person shall carry out any work or undertaking that harmfully alters, disrupts or destroys fish habitat, unless authorized by the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans Canada. As authorization under Section 35(2) of the *Fisheries Act* protects an individual from prosecution under the Act, provided the conditions of the authorization are met. A Section 35(2) *Fisheries Act* authorization is a regulatory trigger for an environmental assessment under the CEAA. It should be noted that Fisheries and Oceans Canada can withhold authorization. Therefore, proponents are urged to address this issue early in the Class EA process. Information on the *Fisheries Act* and Fisheries and Oceans Canada's Policy for the Management of Fish Habitat are available on the Internet at: www.ncr.dfo.ca .

Navigable Waters Protection Act

Any project (e.g., bridges, dams, weirs, docks and other waterside projects) that has the potential to affect the navigability of a navigable waterway requires a permit under the Navigable Waters Protection Act. This in turn would trigger the requirement for an assessment in accordance with the CEAA. To determine whether or not a waterway or watercourse is considered to be navigable, proponents should contact the Department of Fisheries and Oceans – Coast Guard.

Table A: Potential Canadian Environmental Assessment Act Triggers

A CEAA screening is triggered if the project:

Potential Project Trigger	Provisions of Act	Responsible Authority	Comments
• is being funded with federal money	CEAA s.s. 5(1)b	the funding department	Act is triggered where federal money is being provided (e.g., Infrastructure Program projects)
• is on federal land	CEAA s.s.5(1)c	Federal department responsible for the implicated lands	• this would affect projects crossing federal lands such as national parks (Heritage Canada), Indian reserves (Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development) or national defence bases (Department of National Defence)
• is likely to affect a line or property, regulated by the NEB, that is used for the transmission of oil or gas	National Energy Board Act	National Energy Board	• may apply to projects requiring the re-location of a pipeline that is regulated by the NEB
• is likely to affect the operation of a railway company or property	Canadian Transportation Act	Transport Canada, Canadian Transportation Agency	• generally will apply to projects where a rail line crossing is contemplated
• involves the temporary storage of explosives on-site	Explosives Act, par. 7(1)a	Natural Resources Canada	• projects which involve blasting and will store the explosives on-site require a permit under the Explosives Act
• involves the federal government in the acquisition, administration or disposal of real property for which a license for any use or occupation of real property is required	Federal Real Property Regulations, par. 4(2)a	Various – the Federal Department providing the licence	• would apply to projects which propose to use or occupy federal real property
• is likely to affect fish or fish habitat, affect the quantity or quality of water available for fish or result in the destruction of fish	Fisheries Act, s.s. 35(2)	Department of Fisheries and Oceans –Habitat Management and Enhancement	• authorization is required to harmfully alter fish habitat (e.g., in the construction of stream crossings)
• is likely to affect the navigability of a water body	Navigable Waters Protection Act, s.s. 5(1)a	Department of Fisheries and Oceans – Canadian Coast Guard	• this would apply to projects potentially affecting the navigability of navigable rivers through the construction or alteration of works on, over, under, through or across a

Potential Project Trigger	Provisions of Act	Responsible Authority	Comments
			navigable waterway (e.g., bridges)
• is likely to take place in, involve dredge and fill operations, draw water from or discharge to a historic canal operated by Parks Canada	I.A. and N.D. Canal Land Regulations Public Lands Licensing Order Heritage Canal Regulations	Heritage Canada – Parks Canada	• potentially triggered by projects crossing the Trent Severn Waterway and Rideau Canal. The Canal Land Regulations and Public Lands Licensing Order address drainage into a canal (e.g., stormwater drains) and the Heritage Canal Regulations address dredge and fill activities (e.g., construction of bridge piers)
• is likely to affect Indian reserve lands	Indian Act, s.s. 28(2), 35(1), 35(2) and 39	Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development	• would only apply to projects that are located on, or require access through, Indian reserves

Table B: Identifying Federal Authorities

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	EXPERT FEDERAL AUTHORITY
general	Environment Canada
air	Environment Canada
land	Natural Resources Canada Environment Canada
wildlife	Environment Canada
fish and fish habitat	Fisheries and Oceans Canada
soil	Agriculture Canada
forest resources	Natural Resources Canada
humans	Health Canada
water	Environment Canada Fisheries and Oceans Canada Natural Resources Canada
sustainable use	Environment Canada
human health conditions	Health Canada
socio-economic conditions	Agriculture Canada Environment Canada Fisheries and Oceans Canada Health Canada Indian and Northern Affairs Canada Industry, Science and Technology Canada Natural Resources Canada
cultural resources	Canadian Heritage Indian and Northern Affairs Canada
aboriginal resource use	Indian and Northern Affairs Canada
aboriginal land use	Health Canada
historical, archaeological, paleontological and architectural resources	Canadian Heritage Natural Resources Canada Public Works Canada
management of protected areas – national parks, national historic sites, historic rivers and heritage canals	Canadian Heritage
CEAA Process and Procedures	Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency Environment Canada
International Environmental Issues	Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada Canadian International Development Agency

7.2 Provincial Legislation

Aggregate Resources Act

The *Aggregate Resources Act* (ARA), administered by the Ministry of Natural Resources, provides for the management of the aggregate resources of Ontario, and controls or regulates aggregate operations on crown or private lands. The operation of a wayside pit for road construction or road maintenance in certain designated parts of Ontario requires a permit under this legislation. The excavation of aggregates for other purposes, on private land, in designated parts of Ontario, requires a licence. On all crown land, an aggregate permit is required.

Algonquin Forestry Authority Act

The *Algonquin Forestry Authority Act* establishes a Crown corporation known as the Algonquin Forestry Authority (AFA) to manage forests in Algonquin Provincial Park and public lands adjacent to the park as the Minister of Natural Resources authorizes. Consistent with the *Crown Forest Sustainability Act*, 1994 and the Management Plan for Algonquin Provincial Park, the AFA harvests Crown timber and produces logs for sale, undertakes forestry, land management and other programs and projects authorized by MNR, and advises the Minister on forestry and land management programs and projects of general advantage to Ontario.

Endangered Species Act

The *Endangered Species Act* provides for conservation, protection, restoration or propagation of species of flora and fauna that are threatened with extinction in Ontario. No person shall willfully kill, injure, interfere with, or destroy any endangered species or its habitat, or risk fines of up to $50,000 or 2 years in jail - however, most experts prefer to use the stewardship and education approach to ensuring the protection of such species and their habitat.

Environmental Assessment Act

The *Environmental Assessment Act* provides for the protection, conservation and wise management of the environment. In this *Act*, "environment" means,

a. air, land or water,
b. plant and animal life, including humans,
c. the social, economic and cultural conditions that influence the life of people or a community.

Environmental Bill of Rights

The *Environmental Bill of Rights* is based on the principle that Ontario's environment should be protected, conserved and, where reasonable, restored the integrity of the environment. In the Act, "environment" is defined as the air, land, water, plant life, animal life and ecological systems of Ontario. It provides a mechanism for the people of Ontario to become involved in environmental decision making. Any Ontario resident can comment on proposed laws that are environmentally significant (including Acts, policies, regulations or other instruments). Subject Ministries must post any environmentally significant proposal on the Environmental Registry for 30 days.

Environmental Protection Act

The *Environmental Protection Act* (EPA) prohibits the discharge of contaminants into the natural environment that will or are likely to have an adverse effect. A Certificate of Approval would be required, for example, for a waste disposal site in a provincial park or conservation reserve. The EPA is administered by the Ministry of the Environment.

Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act

The *Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act* replaced the *Game and Fish Act* in 1997. The Act focuses on the management, perpetuation and rehabilitation of fish and wildlife resources in Ontario. Many of the changes focus on enhancing protection and management of both game and specifically protected species of wildlife, giving enforcement more teeth and improving service to the public. The Act provides for hunting, trapping, fishing and related activities including: sale, purchase and transport; licensing and other authorities; administration, regulation enforcement, offences and penalties. Normally, any person who wishes to hunt or trap any animal in Ontario must first obtain a licence, and must comply with all regulations regarding bag limits, method of chase and capture, etc, except for farmers, who may do certain activities on their own lands (see 6(3) for exceptions). Section 8(3) of the Act states that no person may damage or destroy a

beaver dam without a trapper's licence – except where the dam has been destroyed in an effort to protect their own property (8(4)). All hunters and trappers must also respect the *Trespass to Property Act*, which means that they can not access private lands without the permission of the owner.

Forest Fires Prevention Act

The *Forest Fires Prevention Act* provides the mechanism for the control and use of outdoor fires. The Act applies to the two fire regions, which include all lands in Northwestern, Northern, Northeastern and Central Ontario. The fire season from Aril 1st to October 31st may be extended by regulation. The Act establishes rules for: open burning, reporting fires, prevention measures (e.g., land clearing, smoking in the bush, etc.), and provides for Restricted Fire Zones, Emergency Area Orders and agreements.

Lakes and Rivers Improvement Act

The *Lakes and Rivers Improvement Act* regulates structures in and alterations to lakes, rivers and streams. It is administered by the Ministry of Natural Resources.

Niagara Escarpment Planning and Development Act

The *Niagara Escarpment Planning and Development Act* provides for the protection and maintenance of the natural environment of the Niagara Escarpment. The Act requires municipalities and ministries in the planning area to ensure compatibility of their own planning and activities with the approved Niagara Escarpment Plan.

Ontario Water Resources Act

The *Ontario Water Resources Act* (OWRA) regulates the taking of water from wells or surface water sources and the treatment and disposal of sewage. It is administered by the Ministry of the Environment. Approval may consist of a certificate of approval and/or a permit to take water, depending on the proposed undertaking.

Planning Act

The *Planning Act* guides land use development through a provincial policy-led planning system to:

- promote sustainable economic development, in a healthy natural environment;
- provide for planning processes that are fair, open, accessible, timely and efficient, to integrate matters of provincial interest in provincial and municipal planning decisions; and,
- encourage cooperation and coordination among various interests.

The Provincial Policy Statement (1997) was issued under Section 3 of the *Planning Act*. Policy 2.3 deals with Natural Heritage values such as: significant wetland south and east of the Canadian Shield; significant wildlife habitat; significant woodlands and valleylands; and significant areas of natural and scientific interest. If development is being considered, the proponent must demonstrate that no negative impacts on the natural features or ecological functions will occur.

Provincial Parks Act

The *Provincial Parks Act* authorizes the Lieutenant Governor in Council to set apart as a provincial park any area in Ontario, may increase or decrease the area of any provincial park and may delimit any provincial park. Parks may be classified as a natural environment park, a nature reserve park, a wilderness park, a recreational park, a waterways park, or a historical park. Any of these classes may be zoned with controlled uses in zones.

Public Lands Act

The *Public Lands Act* provides for:

- the management, sale and disposition of public lands and forests;
- the setting aside of lands for various uses including conservation reserves;
- the granting, sale or lease public lands;
- the requiring of a work permit for activities on Crown lands; and,
- the release of trees reserved to the Crown on patent lands (where only some of the species have been reserved).

Under the Act, letters patent for land sold or leased may contain a condition that the land is to be used in a particular manner or a condition that the land is not to be used in a particular manner, etc. Easements in or over public lands may also be granted for any purpose.

Appendix 8: Notification & Consultation

8.1 Introduction

Consultation with agencies and parties that may be affected by a project is an integral part of conducting project evaluations under this Class EA. Section 4 of this document identifies a discretionary point of contact for projects undergoing the screening process, and Section 5 identifies both mandatory and discretionary points of contact for Category B and C projects. The mandatory points of contact are minimum requirements, and MNR staff are expected to ensure that consultation is appropriate to the scale, the level of complexity, the potential environmental effects and the level of public concern associated with each project.

Consultation is integral to the project evaluation processes for category B, C and D projects.

This appendix provides a general outline of the role of consultation in the project evaluation and a brief summary of public consultation and dispute resolution techniques. Further guidance may be found in MNR's "Public Involvement Guidelines" (1991) and in current guidelines issued be the EAA Branch of the Ministry of the Environment.

Consultation is intended to achieve the following objectives:

- To provide information to agencies and interested parties regarding the characteristics of the project, the environment that may be affected (including natural, cultural, socioeconomic), and its environmental effects.
- To receive information regarding potential environmental effects and concerns related to the project.
- To generate an atmosphere of trust and cooperation between the parties involved.
- To provide a forum for the exchange of ideas and suggestions regarding the problem or opportunity to be addressed and to improve the quality of decision making at each stage of the process.
- To endeavour to resolve issues and concerns early in the project evaluation process and before final decisions are made.

8.2 Parties to Consultation

The parties to be consulted in a project evaluation will include:

- Government review agencies that may have an interest (see Appendix 6).
- Affected municipalities.
- Individual members of the public.
- Aboriginal groups.
- Public groups that may be formed in response to the proposed project.
- Groups representing interests related to provincial parks and conservation reserves (e.g., natural environment protection, hunting, tourism).
- Where a project is proposed in partnership with an association or commercial entity, MNR would also consult with this partner. In some instances, the partner or co-proponent may take the lead in conducting the project evaluation under MNR's supervision.

8.3 Conducting Public and Agency Consultation

MNR staff should consider the following suggestions when designing consultation processes:

- Prepare a schedule of mandatory and discretionary consultation events.
- Identify the consultation methods to be used at each step.
- Clearly state the messages to be conveyed.
- Identify how concerns will be incorporated into the project evaluation process.

Consultation processes should allow for a degree of flexibility so that MNR can respond to circumstances as they arise. If the project generates a greater degree of concern than anticipated, the process may be supplemented with additional consultation steps or events, and the schedule may be modified. If there is a low level of public interest, consultation requirements may be reduced, although the mandatory requirements must still apply. Preparation of a consultation plan is suggested for more complex situations.

In conducting public and agency consultation, the following general principles apply:

- Consultation should be initiated as early as possible in the process.
- Responsibility for the management of the consultation program should be assigned to an individual who is accountable for its successful implementation. More contentious projects can benefit from a consultation expert who is able to take on an independent role as facilitator between MNR and the parties, and can provide ongoing advice on appropriate consultation approaches.
- The initial mailing list should be comprehensive, and should be updated throughout the project evaluation. Lack of contact at the early stages can lead to a loss of confidence in the process among persons and agencies that do not find out about the project until significant decisions have been made. Where parties do not respond, judgement may be applied in deciding whether to exclude them from the list. The list should include relevant government agencies (per Appendix 6), municipalities, conservation authorities, local community members and groups, aboriginal groups, and other interest groups as appropriate.
- Protocols or agreements may be in place for consultation with local First Nations. These should be identified and used to develop the appropriate approach.
- There should be a variety of consultation opportunities to ensure that all interested parties are able to provide input. For example, more significant projects may generate interest among parties located at some distance as well as from local communities, and their different needs should be provided for.
- The timing of consultation events should respect the needs and seasonal activities of the potential parties (e.g., cottagers, anglers and hunters, religious holidays). Adequate notice should be given.
- MNR should be clear in describing the input requested from parties at each stage of the process. Materials may include specific questions to be resolved.
- Enough information should be provided to enable parties to provide constructive input at each step. Consultation materials should be in plain language. Where additional information is requested, this should be provided in a timely manner, or as soon as it becomes available.
- An ongoing record should be kept of comments received, and MNR's responses to them.
- Parties should be informed of MNR's responses to concerns, and the ways in which their input has been incorporated into the process.
- All regulatory and policy requirements related to freedom of information and the right to privacy as well as French language services must be adhered to.
- Where possible, concerns should be resolved before decisions or recommendations that relate to

them are made at a subsequent step of the process. Where concerns prove difficult to resolve, consideration should be given to the use of alternative dispute resolution methods, described below.

8.4 Notification and Consultation Techniques

This section summarizes a variety of notification, consultation and dispute resolution techniques that are available. Further guidance may be found in MNR's "Public Involvement Guidelines" and current guidelines that may be available from the Ministry of the Environment, EAA Branch.

8.4.1 Notices

Newspaper Advertisements

Newspaper advertisements are normally used to provide formal notice. Their coverage is limited to the circulation area of the publication and its readers.

The title of a press advertisement must give a concise indication of what the project is and who will be affected (location). Misunderstandings can result in exclusion of parties who would otherwise wish to be involved.

The amount of information that can be conveyed is limited, but should provide contact information.

Press releases and conferences can assist in spreading information about a project, but they do not comprise formal notice.

Mailings

Mailings are often used to provide formal notice, since they ensure a uniform provision of information to a known list of respondents. The scope of coverage is only as good as the mailing list.

Mailings can convey large amounts of information, including reports. They should include contact information for those wishing to respond.

On-site notices

On site notices are limited as to how much information they can convey, but they can initiate communication with individuals who use and know the provincial park or conservation reserve, but would not otherwise have known about the project.

Internet and Email

The internet is increasingly used to provide a means to download and print EA-related documents from a web site. Internet access is limited to those with access to computers with on-line connections, and only those who log on see the information unless e-mail mailing lists are used. Therefore, at this time and until electronic communications become widespread, these methods can be used to complement other traditional methods and should not be relied upon solely for notice. Provision can be made for parties to provide written consultation submissions comments via e-mail.

8.4.2 Consultation

Public Open Houses

Public open houses are used to convey information and to facilitate interaction with the public. They usually take the form of a display with staff or consultants available for discussion. They can include a presentation followed by questions. Where significant issues are within the mandate of an agency other than MNR, a representative of the other agency should be present to answer questions

Meetings

Public meetings alone may encourage divisiveness and encourage dispute. Often, smaller focussed meetings are more successful. Where contentious issues are being dealt with, it is advisable to have a facilitator to guide the meeting process.

So-called "kitchen table" meetings provide an opportunity to discuss the concerns of a small group of individuals in an informal setting.

Comment Sheets

Comment sheets enable individuals to submit views in a structured way that can be easily analysed, in a non -threatening environment. They can be submitted after the event, such as an open house, or included with a document.

Care must be taken in framing and interpreting comment sheets so that relevant information is obtained, the scope of the response is not unduly constrained, and the reasons for the response are understood.

Displays

Small displays may initiate contact with those who would not otherwise have been involved and whose views are important, such as users of campgrounds and visitor centres.

Consultative Committees

For larger and more complex projects, it may be appropriate to invite participation in one or more committees comprising agency, community, aboriginal and/or interest group representatives who would act as a sounding board for ideas and solutions as they are developed through the project evaluation. The mandate of the committee must be clearly defined, and care must be taken in confirming any findings with the community as a whole.

Workshops and Seminars

Workshops and seminars can be very effective in enabling improved understanding among the parties in situations where evaluation and decision making involves complex scientific or other information.

Site Visits

Site visits provide an informal opportunity for MNR and the parties to exchange information about the nature and scale of the project, as it relates to its environmental setting.

Correspondence

Parties should be invited to submit comments in writing at the appropriate steps during the evaluation. Agencies will normally use this method, and some interest groups and individuals will prefer this approach to a comment sheet.

Reasonable deadlines should be set so that responses can be incorporated into the project evaluation process. Responses should be acknowledged if a documented response will not be provided in the near future.

Telephone Conversations

While telephone conversations have the advantages of immediacy and informality, it is important that these exchanges are well documented. Where important commitments are made they should be followed up in the form of a letter.

8.4.3 Dispute Resolution

MNR may opt to use alternate dispute resolution techniques during a project evaluation process when other attempts to resolve issues have been unsuccessful. The *EA Act* also enables the Minister of the Environment to require mediation, which is one form of dispute resolution, before making a decision on a Part II Order (bump up) request (refer to Section 6.6.4).

Appendix 9: Sample Notices and Forms

The following examples of notices and forms are intended to illustrate how the requirements of the Class EA can be met at critical steps in the planning process. The notices describe hypothetical projects in hypothetical locations and are intended only as a guide. Adjustments would be made to meet particular circumstances. All sample notices and forms presented here may be changed from time to time, to make them useful, effective and efficient.

The sample formats and notices contained in this appendix are:

1. Record of Screening Process (per Section 4.2)
2. Public Notice Requesting Input to a Screening Process (per Section 4.3)
3. Category B: Public Notice (per Section 5.1, Step 2)
4. Category B: Record of Project Evaluation (per Section 5.1)
5. Category B: Notice of Completion (per Section 5.1, Step 4)
6. Category B: Statement of Completion (per Section 5,1, Step 5)
7. Category C: Initial Public Notice (per Section 5.2, Step 2)
8. Category C: Notice of Opportunity to Inspect Draft ESR (per Section 5.2, Step 4)
9. Category C: Notice of Completion, Opportunity to Inspect the Final ESR (per Section 5.2, Step 6)
10. Category C: Statement of Completion (per Section 5.2, Step 7)
11. Project Monitoring Record (per Section 5.3)
12. Notice of Intention to Proceed Following Expiry of Project Approval (per Section 6.7)
13. Notice of Revised Statement of Completion (per Section 6.8)

1. Record of Screening Process (per Section 4.2)

Record of Screening Process

Step 1: Assess Project Against List of Projects (Appendix 2)

❑ Screening required

Step 2: Prepare Project Description

Name of Project
Provincial Park or Conservation Reserve, Location
Purpose and Rationale (problem or opportunity)
Project Description, Scale, Duration
Study area that may be affected
Applicable MNR policies, procedures, manuals, guidelines
Other required approvals or permits
Alternatives to and alternative methods of implementation (explain if no alternatives)

Preliminary evaluation (cost, feasibility, potential effects)
Mitigation features that will apply to the design of the project

Step 3: Assess Against Screening Criteria

Critical potential environmental effects (attach screening table)
Additional investigation and analysis required to confirm environmental effects

Step 4: Assign Project to Appropriate Category

Anticipated level of public or agency concern
This project has been assigned to category __. Brief rationale _____ Signature and Position (staff member who conducted the screening) Date:

Step 5: MNR Manager Confirms or Modifies Category

❑ Category confirmed ❑ Category modified and brief rationale _____ Signature and Position (responsible manager) Date:
Additional notes/direction for project evaluation

2. Public Notice Requesting Input to a Screening Process (per Section 4.3)

Proposed Snowmobile Trail: Snake River Conservation Reserve, Algoma District

Public Notice Requesting Input to a Screening Process

The Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) invites public comment on its proposal to realign an existing snowmobile trail in the Snake River Conservation Reserve.

A screening is being conducted under the Class Environmental Assessment for Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves to assign this project to a category for evaluation. The assigned category determines the level of detail of the evaluation and the amount of consultation. This project has been tentatively assigned to Category B on the basis that little or no public concern is anticipated with the project. MNR is requesting public input on this assignment before proceeding further.

Comments must be received within the 30-day comment period, which expires on _____.

If MNR decides that this is a Category B project, this notice will form the first of two notices. The second notice-a Notice of Completion-will be provided only to parties who have requested further notice. MNR may proceed to implement the project without issuing a further general notice.

For more information on the project, to submit comments or to request further notice, please contact:

Name, position
Address
Phone/Fax/E-mail address

This information is being collected for the purpose of planning and implementing a Class EA project for a provincial park or conservation reserve in accordance with the Provincial Parks Act or Public Lands Act. All input will become part of the public record for the duration of the project, unless privacy is requested pursuant to the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

Ontario

3. Category B: Public Notice (Section 5.1, Step 2)

Dam Maintenance: Snake River Conservation Reserve, Algoma District

Public Notice for a Category B Project Evaluation

The Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) invites public comment on its proposal to undertake maintenance work on the Snake River dam. This minor maintenance will require MNR to lower the water level. The work is proposed to occur during the fall in order to minimize impact on area cottagers. No environmental effects are anticipated.

Comments must be received within the 30-day comment period, which expires on_____.

The proposal is being evaluated as a Category B project under the Class Environmental Assessment for Provincial parks and Conservation Reserves. A Notice of Completion will be sent to those who have requested further notice when the project evaluation is finished. At that time, if there are concerns about this project that cannot be resolved in discussion with MNR, there will be an opportunity for concerned parties to request the Minister of the Environment to require MNR to evaluate the project using a higher category. MNR may proceed to implement the project without issuing a further general notice.

For more information on the project, to submit comments or to request further notice, please contact:

Name, position
Address
Phone/Fax/E-mail address

This information is being collected for the purpose of planning and implementing a Class EA project for a provincial park or conservation reserve in accordance with the Provincial Parks Act or Public Lands Act. All input will become part of the public record for the duration of the project, unless privacy is requested pursuant to the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

Ontario

4. Category B: Record of Project Evaluation (per Section 5.1)

Record of Category B Project Evaluation

(Add additional material as required)

Step 1: Scoping

Extent of planning and consultation previously conducted in support of the project (e.g., through a management plan process)
Description of required evaluation and consultation steps completed and remaining

Step 2: Public Notice

❑ mailing to persons and agencies with a known or potential interest (on file)
❑ local newspaper advertisement(s), with an invitation to comment within 30 days (on file)

Step 3: Project Evaluation

Name of Project
Provincial Park or Conservation Reserve, Location
Purpose and Rationale (problem or opportunity)
Project Description
Study area and environment affected
Applicable MNR policies, procedures, manuals, guidelines Other required approvals and dates when secured

Potential environmental effects (derived from the screening process, with additional information as required)
Required mitigation, remedial and enhancement measures
Consideration of whether monitoring is required and, if so, a description of any monitoring requirements and commitments (see Section 5.3)
A description of consultation conducted and issues raised, MNR's response to these issues, and any changes made to the project in response to public or agency input ❑ No concerns raised ❑ Concerns noted above can be resolved through conditions of approval, as described above

Step 4: Notice of Completion

❑ Notice not required (no public or agency requests for further information from step 2)
❑ Notification to persons and agencies who commented or asked to be notified of its decision on the project

Step 5: Statement of Completion, Implement Project

❑ "Statement of Completion" issued (on file) Date: _____
❑ No bump up requests received during the 30-day period
❑ Bump up request received and resolved without elevation of the project to Category C or D or a requirement for an individual EA
❑ Bump up process being followed per Section 6.6

Additional notes or direction for project implementation
Certification ❑ the project was evaluated as a Category B project in accordance with the requirements of this Class EA ❑ environmental effects are acceptable ❑ project may proceed _____ Signature and Position (responsible manager) Date:

5. Category B: Notice of Completion (per Section 5.1, Step 4)

Proposed Dam Maintenance: Snake River Provincial Park, Algoma District

Notice of Completion for a Category B Project Evaluation

Class Environmental Assessment for Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves

The Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR), Ontario Parks has completed a project evaluation for a proposal to undertake maintenance of the control dam in Snake River Provincial Park, located on Highway 105 approximately fifteen kilometres north of Red Falls. The project is in accordance with the Snake River Park Management Plan, and would ensure proper and safe functioning of the dam.

A Category B project evaluation and consultation process was carried out in accordance with the Class Environmental Assessment for Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves, and it identified no significant environmental effects. In response to public concern about the timing of the project, the work will occur in October instead of September to lessen impact on area cottagers.

For further information on the project, to submit comments or to inspect the project file during regular office hours, please contact:

Name, position
Address
Phone/Fax/E-mail

If there are concerns about this project that cannot be resolved in discussion with MNR, interested parties may request that the Minister of the Environment make an order for the project to comply with Part II of the *Environmental Assessment Act* (otherwise known as a "bump up" request). Requests must be received by the Minister of the Environment within the 30-day comment period, which expires on (insert date), and copied at the same time to MNR at the above address. The address of the Minister of the Environment is:

Minister of the Environment
135 St. Clair Avenue West
10th Floor
Toronto, ON M4V 1P5

If no request for a Part II Order is received within the 30-day period, or if a request is successfully resolved, MNR may proceed to implement the project.

This information is being collected for the purpose of planning and implementing a Class EA project for a provincial park or conservation reserve in accordance with the Provincial Parks Act or Public Lands Act. All input will become part of the public record for the duration of the project, unless privacy is requested pursuant to the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

Ontario

6. Category B: Statement of Completion (per Section 5.1, Step 5)

Statement of Completion for a Category B Project Evaluation

Class Environmental Assessment for Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves

Project Description

Maintenance of the control dam in Snake River Provincial Park, located on Highway 105 approximately fifteen kilometres north of Red Falls. The maintenance work will ensure proper and safe operation of the structure.

Project Evaluation

The project was evaluated in accordance with the requirements for a Category B project under the Class Environmental Assessment for Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves.

Bump up (Part II Order) Provisions

A Notice of Completion was issued on *(date)*. One "bump up" request was received, but this was satisfactorily resolved and was withdrawn by the objector within the 30-day comment period. MNR now intends to proceed with the project.

_____

Name Date
Position (Zone or District Manager)
Address

Copies to:

❑ Project file, and

❑ The Manager, Planning and Research Section
Ontario Parks, Ministry of Natural Resources
300 Water Street
Peterborough, ON K9J 8M5

7. Category C: Initial Public Notice (per Section 5.2, Step 2)

Proposed New Campground: Osprey Lake Provincial Park, District of Rainy River

Invitation to Comment and to Attend a Public Open House

The Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR), Ontario Parks is inviting comments on its proposal to develop a new campground at the Osprey Lake Provincial Park, located on Highway 11 approximately ten kilometres east of Burnt River. The campground is anticipated to include xx campsites serviced with electricity and water, xx tent campsites, a playground area, a comfort station, vault privies, a boat dock, an entrance structure and road access. Water is to be provided from the Park's existing water treatment plant. The campground project is in accordance with the Osprey Park Management Plan. Several locations near the shore of Osprey Lake are under consideration, within the study area shown on the following map. Environmental effects would vary depending on the selected location and configuration of the campground.

The proposal will be evaluated as a Category C project under the Class Environmental Assessment for Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves (Class EA), which requires the preparation of an Environmental Study Report (ESR).

You are invited to attend a Public Open House to view further information and to discuss the project with MNR staff, at *(location, date, time)*. Comments must be received within the 30-day comment period, which will expire on_____. A package of additional information has been prepared for interested parties. To obtain the package, to discuss the project, to provide comments or to be placed on the project mailing list, please contact:

Name, position
Address
Phone/Fax/E-mail address

Map

There will be at least one additional general notice concerning this project, to be issued on the completion of a Draft ESR. Interested parties are strongly encouraged to discuss any concerns with MNR, early in the planning process. If there are concerns that cannot be resolved in discussion with MNR, interested parties may request the Minister of the Environment to make an order for the project to comply with Part II of the *Environmental Assessment Act* (otherwise known as a "bump up" request). This request would not be made until the project evaluation has been completed and a Notice of Completion of a Final ESR has been issued.

This information is being collected for the purpose of planning and implementing a Class EA project for a provincial park or conservation reserve in accordance with the Provincial Parks Act or Public Lands Act. All input will become part of the public record for the duration of the project, unless privacy is requested pursuant to the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

Ontario

8. Category C: Notice of Opportunity to Inspect Draft ESR (per Section 5.2, Step 4)

Proposed New Campground: Osprey Lake Provincial Park, District of Rainy River

Notice of Opportunity to Inspect the Draft Environmental Study Report and to Attend a Public Open House

The Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR), Ontario Parks is inviting comments on a Draft Environmental Study Report (ESR) for its proposal to develop a new campground at the Osprey Lake Provincial Park, located on Highway 11 approximately ten kilometres east of Burnt River. The campground would include xx motor vehicle and trailer campsites serviced with electricity and water, xx tent campsites, a play area, a comfort station, vault privies, a boat dock, an entrance structure and road access. Water would be provided from the Park's existing water treatment plant. The campground is in accordance with the Osprey Park Management Plan. The Draft ESR was prepared in accordance the Class Environmental Assessment for Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves. It describes the process for the selection of a preferred location, the development of a site plan and an evaluation of environmental effects. The preferred location is shown on the following map.

You are invited to attend a Public Open House to view further information and to discuss the project with MNR staff, at *(location, date, time)*. Comments must be received within the 30-day comment period, which will expire on_____.

To obtain the Draft ESR, to discuss the project, or to be placed on the project mailing list, please contact:

Name, position
Address
Phone/Fax/E-mail address

Map

If there are concerns about this project that cannot be resolved in discussion with MNR, interested parties may request the Minister of the Environment to make an order for the project to comply with Part II of the *Environmental Assessment Act*, otherwise known as a "bump up" request. This request would not be made until a Notice of Completion of a Final ESR has been issued. Only parties on the project mailing list will be notified of the completion of a Final ESR. Interested parties are strongly encouraged to discuss any concerns with MNR before issuing a bump up request. If no bump up request is received in response to the Notice of Completion of a Final ESR, or if a request is successfully resolved, MNR may proceed to implement the project.

This information is being collected for the purpose of planning and implementing a Class EA project for a provincial park or conservation reserve in accordance with the Provincial Parks Act or Public Lands Act. All input will become part of the public record for the duration of the project, unless privacy is requested pursuant to the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

Ontario

9. Category C: Notice of Completion, Opportunity to Inspect the Final ESR
(per Section 5.2, Step 6)

Proposed New Campground: Osprey Lake Provincial Park, District of Rainy River

Notice of Completion, Opportunity to Inspect the Final Environmental Study Report

The Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR), Ontario Parks invites inspection of the Final Environmental Study Report for its proposal to develop a new campground at the Osprey Lake Provincial Park, located on Highway 11 approximately ten kilometres east of Burnt River. The campground would include xx motor vehicle and trailer campsites serviced with electricity and water, xx tent campsites, a play area, a comfort station, vault privies, a boat dock, an entrance structure and road access. Water is to be provided from the Park's existing water treatment plant. The campground is in accordance with the Osprey Park Management Plan. A Final Environmental Study Report (ESR) for the campground has now been completed, as required for a Category C project by the Class Environmental Assessment for Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves. The Final ESR describes the process for the selection of a preferred location, the development of a site plan and an evaluation of environmental effects.

To obtain the Final ESR *(a copy may be included with the mailed version of the notice)*, to discuss the project, to provide comments or to inspect the project file during normal office hours, please contact:

Name, position
Address
Phone/Fax/E-mail address

If there are concerns about this project that cannot be resolved in discussion with MNR, interested parties may request the Minister of the Environment to make an order for the project to comply with Part II of the *Environmental Assessment Act* (otherwise known as a "bump up" request). Requests must be received by the Minister of the Environment within the 30-day comment period, which will expire on_____, and copied at the same time to MNR at the above address. The address of the Minister of the Environment is:

Minister of the Environment
135 St. Clair Avenue West
10th Floor
Toronto, ON M4V 1P5

Interested parties are strongly encouraged to discuss any concerns with MNR before requesting a bump up. If no request is received within the 30-day period, or if a request is successfully resolved, MNR may proceed to implement the project.

This information is being collected for the purpose of planning and implementing a Class EA project for a provincial park or conservation reserve in accordance with the Provincial Parks Act or Public Lands Act. All input will become part of the public record for the duration of the project, unless privacy is requested pursuant to the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

Ontario

10. Category C: Statement of Completion (per Section 5.2, Step 7)

Statement of Completion of an Environmental Study Report for a Category C Project

Class Environmental Assessment for Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves

Project Description

The project comprises a new campground at the Osprey Lake Provincial Park, located on Highway 11 approximately ten kilometres east of Burnt River. The campground will include xx motor vehicle and trailer campsites serviced with electricity and water, xx tent campsites, a play area, a comfort station, vault privies, a boat dock, an entrance structure and road access. Water would be provided from the Park's existing water treatment plant.

Project Evaluation

The project was evaluated in accordance with the requirements for a Category C project under the Class Environmental Assessment for Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves.

Bump up (Part II Order) Provisions

A Notice of Completion and Opportunity to Inspect the Final ESR was issued on *(date)*. One "bump up" request was received, but this was satisfactorily resolved and was withdrawn by the objector within the 30-day comment period. MNR now intends to proceed with the project.

I certify that the above is correct.

_____ _____

Name *Date*
Position (Zone or District Manager)
Address

Copies to:

❑ Project file, and

❑ The Manager, Planning and Research Section
Ontario Parks, Ministry of Natural Resources
300 Water Street
Peterborough, ON K9J 8M5

11. Format for Project Monitoring Requirements (per Section 5.3)

Project Monitoring Record

The need for monitoring has been considered in the project evaluation, as follows:

❑ Monitoring is not required. Provide justification below:

❑ Monitoring is required, as outlined in this report.

Signature and Position (responsible manager) Date:

Name of Project
Location (Park/Conservation Reserve, Zone/District)
Project Category
Monitoring Objectives
Monitoring Requirements ❑ Construction phase ❑ Operations phase Potential Effects to be Monitored (list) • Item 1 • Item 2 (etc.) ***Item 1:*** *(name of potential effect)* (a) **Purpose:** why monitoring is being done (describe potential effect) (b) **Acceptable Outcome:** describe the range of acceptable outcomes (based on pre-project inventory where required) (c) **Monitoring Methods:** describe the protocol (techniques, equipment, measurements, duration, frequency, etc.) (d) **Results:** describe and assess the results with respect to the acceptable outcomes (e) **Remedial Action:** determine additional actions that may be required to mitigate a problem, including the related monitoring ***Item 2:*** *(per outline above)*

12. Notice of Intention to Proceed following Expiry of Project Approval
(per Section 6.7)

Proposed New Campground: Osprey Lake Provincial Park, District of Rainy River

Notice of Intention to Proceed Following Expiry of Project Approval

The Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) is seeking comments on its intention to act on an expired approval to develop a new campground at the Osprey Lake Provincial Park. The park is located on Highway 11 approximately ten kilometres east of Burnt River. The campground would include xx motor vehicle and trailer campsites serviced with electricity and water, xx tent campsites, a playground area, a comfort station, vault privies, a boat dock, an entrance structure and road access. Water is to be provided from the Park's existing water treatment plant. The campground is provided for in the Osprey Park Management Plan.

The project evaluation met the requirements for a Category C project in the Class Environmental Assessment for Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves (Class EA) on_____ (date), with the filing of a Statement of Completion. The Class EA requires that a new notice must be issued if more than five years elapse between completion of the process and the start of construction. The implementation of the project has been deferred due to reassignment of priorities within MNR, however the Ministry now wishes to proceed. The project and its potential environmental effects remain unchanged. To obtain the Final Environmental Study Report (ESR), to discuss the project, or to submit comments, please contact:

Name, position
Address
Phone/Fax/E-mail address

If there are concerns about this project that cannot be resolved in discussion with MNR, interested parties can request the Minister of the Environment to require the project to comply with Part II of the Environmental Assessment Act (otherwise known as a "bump up" request). Interested parties are strongly encouraged to discuss any concerns with MNR before requesting a Part II Order. Requests must be received by the Minister of the Environment within the 30-day comment period, which will expire on_____, and copied at the same time to MNR at the above address. A bump up request should describe any changes in circumstances affecting the project since the initial Statement of Completion that would justify a bump up. If no bump up request is received within the 30-day period, or if a request is successfully resolved, MNR may proceed to implement the project. The address of the Minister of the Environment is:

Minister of the Environment
135 St. Clair Avenue West
10th Floor
Toronto, ON M4V 1P5

This information is being collected for the purpose of planning and implementing a Class EA project for a provincial park or conservation reserve in accordance with the Provincial Parks Act or Public Lands Act. All input will become part of the public record for the duration of the project, unless privacy is requested pursuant to the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

Ontario

13. Notice of Revised Statement of Completion (per Section 6.8)

Proposed New Campground: Osprey Lake Provincial Park, District of Rainy River

Notice of Revised Statement of Completion

The Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) is seeking comments on its proposal to modify an approved project for a new campground at the Osprey Lake Provincial Park. The Park is located on Highway 11 approximately ten kilometres east of Burnt River. The original proposal met the requirements of the Class Environmental Assessment for Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves with the filing of a Statement of Completion for a Category C project evaluation on .....(date).

Due to changes in demand, it is proposed to increase the approved number of motor vehicle and trailer campsites from 50 to 70. Other aspects of the project are unchanged. This modification would require an increase in the footprint of the campground of approximately 0.5 ha. The additional area would displace emergent vegetation, and would not result in any significant increase in environmental effects.

To obtain the revised Environmental Study Report (ESR), to discuss the project, or to submit comments, please contact:

Name, position
Address
Phone/Fax/E-mail address

If there are concerns about this project that cannot be resolved in discussion with MNR, an interested person may request the Minister of the Environment to require the project to comply with Part II of the Environmental Assessment Act (otherwise known as a "bump up" request). Requests must be received by the Minister of the Environment within the 30-day comment period, which will expire on_____, and copied at the same time to MNR at the above address.
A request should describe how the proposed changes justify a bump up. Interested parties are strongly encouraged to discuss any concerns with MNR before making a bump up request. If no request is received within the 30-day period, or if a request is successfully resolved, MNR may proceed to implement the project. The address of the Minister of the Environment is:

Minister of the Environment
135 St. Clair Avenue West
10th Floor
Toronto, ON M4V 1P5

This information is being collected for the purpose of planning and implementing a Class EA project for a provincial park or conservation reserve in accordance with the Provincial Parks Act or Public Lands Act. All input will become part of the public record for the duration of the project, unless privacy is requested pursuant to the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

Ontario